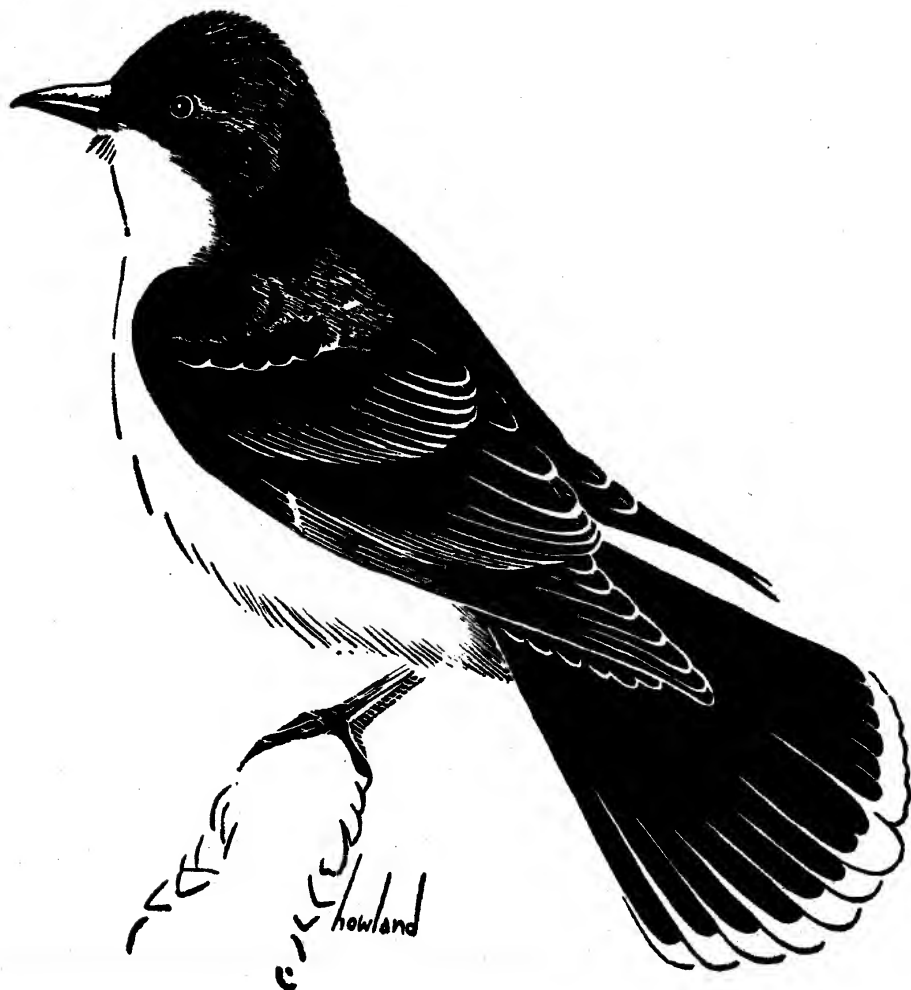


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Editor - Robert Spahn

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Figure 1. Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Town of Hamlin, Monroe Co., New York, 7 to 15 October 1990. Photograph by Karren Schiely, reproduced with permission of Gannett Rochester Newspapers.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES 51: FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER

BOB MARCOTTE

On 7 Oct 1990, I was driving with my wife Hedy along Moscow Road in the Town of Hamlin, Monroe County, when I spotted a flycatcher with a long tail perched on a utility line on the south side of the road. The bird was in an area of open fields that are mixed with scrub, bordered by tree lines, and fronted by residences. The road at this point is within a mile of the south shore of Lake Ontario. After noting the most obvious field markings, I went to a nearby residence, telephoned Kevin Griffith, and then parked about 50 meters from the bird to observe it. Hazy sunshine through a light overcast provided good lighting. When Kevin arrived 15-20 minutes later, he identified the bird as a Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*). Within minutes, four other birders arrived to observe the bird.

The most striking feature of the flycatcher was its long, forked tail, roughly twice the length of the rest of the bird. One fork had a notch in it. The black on the crown extended onto the cheek below the eye. The nape and back were light grey; the wings were darker grey; the underparts were light.

The bird was not only striking in its appearance, but extremely cooperative in its behavior. It allowed Kevin to take pictures from five meters without showing any sign of alarm. Occasionally it would fly a short distance from its perch to snare an insect in midair. When it did, its tail feathers would stream outward. No vocalization was heard.

The bird was first spotted about 3:50 PM, and continued to perch and snare insects until shortly after 5 PM. It then flew off, apparently to roost for the night. However, it was spotted again the following day along the same stretch of Moscow Road, between Priem Road and the west fork of Lake Road, where it remained through 15 Oct. Often it frequented a field of goldenrod directly opposite the utility line where it was first spotted. It would perch on fence posts and hunt at eye level. At this angle, a small yellowish crown patch was often evident, as well as a thin white outer edging along the basal third to half of the outer tail feathers.

The bird was reported on the North American Rare Bird Alert, and was the subject of several newspaper articles. Hundreds of birders from nine states and Canada were able to study the flycatcher.

4533 Dewey Ave., Rochester, New York 14612

[Fork-tailed Flycatcher was treated as hypothetical in New York by Bull (*Birds of New York State*. 1974. Doubleday Natural History Press, Garden City, NY), who listed two Suffolk and one Columbia Co. sightings. Investigation by the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) yielded minimal documentation for all of these reports, but sufficient to include the species on the state list. In addition to the above records, the only other prior report from New York is of a bird seen and photographed by a single observer on Long Island (*Kingbird* 39:190; 1989); the NYSARC has not yet reported their review of that observation. — *The Editor*.]

**THE RAPIDLY CHANGING DISTRIBUTION OF THE
GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (*Vermivora chrysoptera*)
IN CENTRAL NEW YORK**

JOHN L. CONFER¹, DANIEL COKER¹, MICHAEL ARMSTRONG¹
AND JANET DOHERTY²

The Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) has disappeared from much of its former range. Thus, it has been classified as a species of special concern by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Documentation of changes in its population is potentially useful in several ways. Management efforts may be instituted to maintain a regional population if it is shown to be declining, and analyses of this decline may clarify ecological concepts. In this paper we will describe our recent census data on the abundance of the Golden-winged Warbler and its congener, the Blue-winged Warbler (*V. pinus*), in central New York, and we will evaluate some of the data sources used to estimate Golden-winged Warbler abundance.

Statewide surveys of all bird species of New York have been compiled by Eaton (1914), Bull (1974), and Andrie and Carroll (1988). There is an exceptional amount of information on the Golden-winged Warbler in New York. This includes articles in *The Kingbird* (Short 1962, Frech and Confer 1987, Confer and Knapp 1979) and several publications by Ficken and Ficken (e.g., 1967, 1968). New census results described in this report add to our knowledge of the changing distribution and abundance of Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers and their hybrids in central New York.

From 1988-90 the first author, with the invaluable aid of various college student assistants, determined the number of singing male Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers, and their hybrids, in parts of central New York. During 1988-89 our survey covered a broad area. Over 300 sites were visited to determine if any birds were conspicuous. Of these sites, 45 were surveyed with moderate intensity — at least four up to about 50 person-hours per site. From this effort, we were reasonably confident of only the number of singing males at each site. During 1990 our survey was much more intensive but confined to just nine sites. With three observers, we spent from 60-120 person-hours at each site. With this additional time we were reasonably confident of the number of females present as well.

RESULTS

The tabulation of male Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers and their hybrids detected in 1988-89 are shown in Figure 1. Repeated counting of the same individual could occur, but the chance was minimized by visiting almost all different sites in each year. For the Ithaca area, the presence of a single male at the same site on consecutive years continues the decline as noted earlier (Confer and Knapp 1981). This decline correlates with the expansion of the Blue-winged Warbler. Gill (1980) noted that Golden-winged Warbler disappeared within 50 years of the arrival of the Blue-winged Warbler at many other locations, and events in Tompkins County are following the same pattern. This decline also correlates with a decline in the amount of early succession habitat available for nesting by Golden-winged Warbler. The degree to which the presence of the Blue-winged Warbler or the loss of habitat is

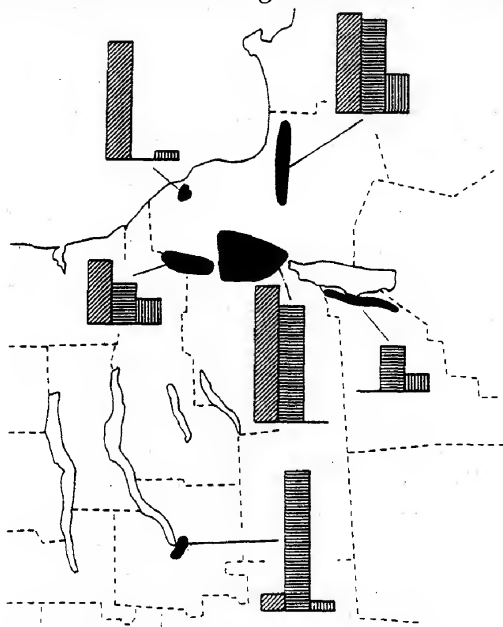


Figure 1. Abundance of Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warbler, and their hybrids, at study sites in central New York during 1988-89. Darkened areas encompass clusters of study sites for which counts are presented. Histograms show the number of Golden-winged Warbler (diagonal stripes), Blue-winged Warbler (horizontal stripes) and their hybrids (vertical stripes) at each cluster. The actual counts at the southern end of Cayuga Lake are 2 Golden-winged, 17 Blue-winged and 1 hybrid Golden-winged X Blue-winged Warbler; the other histograms are drawn to the same scale.

responsible for the decline of the Golden-winged Warbler is not known, but we continue to try to determine this.

The absence of Golden-winged Warbler in the area immediately south of Oneida Lake (Fig. 1) is an anomaly. This area has been intensively scoured by us and seems to have much suitable habitat. Golden-winged Warbler occurs within 20 miles to the west and northwest, but are certainly either very rare or absent in the area along State Route 31.

Of the areas we surveyed, only the area from approximately Oswego east to Mexico and south to Hannibal has far more Golden-winged than Blue-winged Warbler. During 1988-89 the ratio of Golden-winged Warbler males to Blue-winged Warbler plus hybrid males was 15:1 (94%). During 1990 in the same area the ratio of male and female Golden-winged Warbler to male and female Blue-winged Warbler plus hybrids was 30:10 (75%). The small size of this sample allows us only to suspect that a real decline in the proportion of Golden-winged Warbler has occurred in these three years. Over its entire range, there is a tendency for Golden-winged Warbler to occur farther north than the Blue-winged Warbler, as in Minnesota (Highsmith 1989) or Ontario (Mills 1987). However, in the most northern areas of New York that we surveyed, from Pulaski to Watertown within 5-10 miles of Interstate Highway 81, we located as many Blue-winged as Golden-winged Warblers.

DISCUSSION

Surveys that use other techniques provide data about the entire population, and such surveys must be continued. However, our intensive studies at a few sites have suggested various limitations in the accuracy of these broad surveys, which apply particularly to Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers and their hybrids.

The best documentation of changes in the abundance of the Golden-winged Warbler over its entire range comes from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its Breeding Bird Survey Routes. Data from these surveys during 1965-79 (Robbins *et al.* 1986), showed no overall change in the Golden-winged Warbler abundance for its entire range. However, when data from this source for 1966-87 is analyzed by physiographic regions, declines occurred in nine (of which five had statistical significance) of 11 regions while increases occurred only in the two northernmost regions of the range (Droege, *pers. comm.*). The declines are quite rapid, with exponential rates of -2 to -6% annually.

When conducting a Breeding Bird Survey the observer drives to 50 predetermined sites along a 24.5 mile route, and records all birds observed at each site for exactly three minutes while staying near the car. The census starts 30 minutes before sunrise. Due to these procedures, most birds are identified only by song. For Golden-winged Warbler, this may produce two kinds of errors. The first error associated with song identification occurs because almost all hybrids will be tallied as Golden-winged Warbler. Hybrids seem to sing as frequently, perhaps even more frequently, than either a pure Golden-winged or a pure Blue-winged Warbler. In the last two years of field surveys in central New York, I have located 21 "Brewster's" Warblers. One or two could have been the same individual bird observed in consecutive years. Summed for both years, 19 of 21 sang Golden-winged Warbler songs. Counting birds by song without visual confirmation of their identity will assign hybrids to one or the other species. In central New York this will exaggerate the count of Golden-winged Warbler.

The second error associated with song identification involves the virtual identity of the alternate song of Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers and their hybrids. During most of the breeding season all of these forms sing vigorously from about a half-hour before sunrise until sunrise (Highsmith 1989). During this time these birds sing a distinctive song which has been called Type 2 by Lanyon and Gill (1964). Unfortunately, the Type 2 song for both species and the hybrids sounds very similar. The first author of this paper, who has moderately good hearing and years of experience with these birds, under optimal conditions and when close to a singing bird probably can correctly distinguish Type 2 song of a Golden-winged Warbler from those of Blue-winged Warbler and their hybrids a little more than 50% of the time. On Breeding Bird Surveys, observers rarely have optimal conditions but feel compelled to identify each Type 2 song. Personal biases among observers may lead to the disproportional assignment of Type 2 to one species or the other.

These sources of error may not invalidate the population trends suggested by the Breeding Bird Survey data. It is possible that the effect of these errors is proportionally similar for different years and routes. If so, the relative change in the reported abundance of Golden-winged Warblers may truly reflect real changes in the population.

The most recent information for New York about the range of Golden-winged and Blue-winged warblers and their hybrids in New York is presented in *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State* (Andrle and Carroll 1988). This atlas is a marvelous source of information. However, for all species the presentation of population data in the form of dots on a map limits the value of this information. As with most atlases, the dots indicate that one or more breeding birds were present in a censused area, which provides no information about the size of a population. Birders may try especially hard to confirm rare species. Consequently, dots for rare species may occur with misleading frequency.

The rapidity of range change for the Golden-winged Warbler is revealed by comparing the New York atlas map and our survey for the last three years (Fig 1). The range maps in the New York atlas are based on field observations from 1980-85. The map for the Golden-winged Warbler shows that it was found in ten sites in Tompkins County near the southern end of Cayuga Lake. In 1988-89 we surveyed this county. We visited almost all the sites which held Golden-winged Warbler during the atlas survey (as described to us by the regional atlas compiler, D. McIlroy) as well as all the sites described for this area as of 1976-78 (Confer and Knapp 1979). We also solicited information from the many birders in this area. From this effort we located two sites each with one male Golden-winged Warbler in Tompkins County. In 1989-90 we knew of only one site in Tompkins County with one male Golden-winged Warbler each year. At this site the male was paired with a Blue-winged Warbler and raised two hybrids and two Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), an ignominious end for a beautiful species. Although a few undiscovered Golden-winged Warbler may still nest in Tompkins County, the atlas map with 10 dots in this county is already greatly out of date.

During 1990 we obtained preliminary data to test if the proximity of Blue-winged Warbler reduced the ability of Golden-winged Warbler to establish territories or if it altered the vegetative characteristics of the territories occupied by Golden-winged Warbler. The preliminary results suggest that the presence of Blue-winged Warbler does not prevent the establishment of nesting territories by the Golden-winged Warbler. However, it may be that the presence of Blue-winged Warbler drives the Golden-winged Warbler into territories with different vegetative characteristics. We hope to investigate these ideas further. If these

findings are verified, it could be that the Blue-winged Warbler eliminates the Golden-winged Warbler by driving them into inferior nesting habitat.

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PELHAM BAY PARK HAWKWATCH RESULTS, 1990

ROBERT DECANDIDO

For the third consecutive fall since 1988, the Pelham Bay Park hawkwatch was held in Bronx County, New York City. Pelham Bay Park is located on the Long Island Sound in the northeastern most section of the city and is one of a number of full time hawkwatches in the New York City region (DeCandido 1989).

During the 1990 season, 21,951 raptors of 14 species were tallied in migration (Table 1). New daily high totals were set for two species: Bald Eagle (5) and Broad-winged Hawk (15,459). For the season, new record totals were established for Cooper's Hawk (52), Northern Goshawk (3), Broad-winged Hawk (18,739), and Red-shouldered Hawk (16), as well for the total number of hawks counted for the season (21,951). Conversely, both Northern Harrier and American Kestrel totals for the season decreased significantly as compared with previous years' results.

As in previous years, the best flights occurred on days of northwest winds. It is hypothesized that the raptors counted in migration on these days have drifted from the inland ridges to the coast with the prevailing wind (Trowbridge, 1895; Mueller and Berger, 1967; Single, 1980); for alternative hypotheses see Murray (1964) and Kerlinger (1989, 1990). Upon arriving at the coast with the northwest winds, some individuals of certain species such as Osprey, American Kestrel and Sharp-shinned Hawk, will cross the Long Island Sound. Most others continue south along the western shore of the sound until passing over Pelham Bay Park. At this point, we see raptors proceeding in two distinct directions from the hawkwatch: south toward Manhattan or west toward New Jersey. In the former case, raptors simply continue south along the coast, a route often utilized by Osprey. In the latter case, we see most of the soaring hawks such as Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk and Broad-winged Hawk, heading inland ostensibly to the ridges of northeastern New Jersey. Indeed, many more of these latter four species are normally observed at the inland hawkwatches, while numbers of Osprey and falcons are greatest along the coast. This migration pattern at Pelham Bay Park applies only to days of northwesterly winds.

Table 1. Summary of the Raptors counted in migration at the Pelham Bay Hawkwatch, 1990

Species	1990	Three year average
Turkey Vulture	22	21.3
Osprey	1437	1501.3
Mississippi Kite	0	0.3
Bald Eagle	15	14.3
Northern Harrier	119	211.0
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1000	1140.3
Cooper's Hawk	52	46.3
Northern Goshawk	3	2.0
Red-shouldered Hawk	16	11.6
Broad-winged Hawk	18739	9779.3
Swainson's Hawk	0	0.3
Red-tailed Hawk	161	267.3
Rough-legged Hawk	0	1.3
Golden Eagle	1	1.0
American Kestrel	288	483.3
Merlin	36	42.0
Peregrine Falcon	27	25.0
Unidentified	38	25.6
Total	21951	13573.0
Observation Hours	376	445.3

As a case in point, the peak Broad-winged Hawk flight day observed at Pelham Bay on 17 Sep 1990, when 15,459 Broad-winged Hawk were counted, is the best example. Kettles of these hawks were observed arriving from the north, being pushed by the strong (12-20 mph) north-northwest winds to the strip of land bordering the Long Island Sound. Here, the kettles would utilize thermals created by the warm land air overriding the cooler air above the water to gain altitude. After gaining sufficient height, Broad-winged Hawk left the park heading west and west-northwest; *i.e.*, almost directly into the prevailing wind. Interestingly on this same day, large kettles of Broad-winged Hawk were observed coming from the direction of Pelham Bay Park and heading west over the Bronx Zoo and toward New Jersey by an ornithologist familiar with the species (P. Rodewald, *pers. comm.*). Finally, large kettles of Broad-winged Hawk were also seen well to the east of the hawkwatch

at Montclair, New Jersey, on this day (Walter, 1990). However, none of the nearby inland ridge hawkwatches north of Pelham Bay, such as Hook Mountain near Nyack, the Butler Hawkwatch in Mt. Kisco, or Quaker Ridge in Greenwich, Connecticut, recorded large numbers of Broad-winged Hawk in migration on this day.

To summarize, it is hypothesized that, on northwest wind days during the fall migration, raptors drift with the prevailing wind to the coast. Most individuals then continue southwest by following the leading line of the shore. Upon arriving at Pelham Bay, many of the broad-winged soaring species then head due west toward the inland ridges of northeastern New Jersey.

One of the advantages in having so many hawkwatches in a fairly restricted area is that this concentration of effort forms an interception line (Currie *et al.*, 1985), a region wide hawk count, which can accomplish two goals. First, it will permit more accurate census of a portion of the hawks migrating through the area on a given day and over the course of an entire season. Second, our knowledge of the migration routes that raptors follow in response to different winds, changing meteorological conditions, or concentrations of food resources will be enhanced.

OSPREY FORAGING

During the fall of 1990, Pelham Bay Park continued to be an important foraging area for migrating Osprey, with the peak of activity occurring in the month of September as in previous years. However, unlike in 1989 when foraging activity was minimal due to the paucity of Mossbunker (*Brevoortia tyrannus*), the main prey species of the Osprey, this fall Mossbunker was abundant in the waters of the western Long Island Sound and Pelham Bay Park. In addition, many Osprey were observed returning to the area of the hawkwatch with fish caught in more remote sections of the park.

**Table 2. Summary of Osprey Foraging Activity
at the Pelham Bay Hawkwatch, 1990**

For the results of the Osprey foraging survey for 1990 and four year totals, see Table 2. Preliminary analysis of the data collected in this study suggests that, although Osprey prefer certain conditions while

foraging (e.g., prey from 8-14 inches in length, moderate head wind, full sun illuminating the dive area, a high tide and calm waters), so long as fish are present, Osprey can locate and capture prey under a variety of conditions.

Hrs - Number of hours of observations made.; Att - Number of hunting attempts observed; Suc - Number of successful hunting attempts observed; PCT - percent of hunting attempts that were successful; Peak - day with the most number of hunting attempts for the month; Ret - number of Osprey observed returning to the hawkwatch area with fish caught in other sections of the park; Att/Suc - hunting attempts and successes observed on peak day

1990							
Month	Hrs	Att	Suc	PCT	Ret	Peak	Att/Succ
August	12	17	7	41%	4	30 Aug	11/4
September	188	307	124	40%	283	23 Sep	31/18
October	155	41	9	24%	79	2 Oct	0/0 ¹
November	21	7	2	28%	0	6 Nov	7/2
total	376	372	142	38%	366	23 Sep	31/18
1987-1990							
	Hrs	Att	Suc	PCT		PEAK	Att/Suc
August	153	70	35	50%		30 Aug '88	7/4
September	428	448	183	41%		23 Sep '90	31/18
October	364	78	24	31%		3 Oct '88	18/6
November	126	7	2	29%		6 Nov '90	7/2
total	1071	603	244	40%		23 Sep '90	31/18

1. Osprey returned to the hawkwatch area with 15 fish caught in other sections of the park on this date.

Osprey were not the only species exploiting the abundant prey. On 15 Oct, an adult Caspian Tern was observed returning several times to feed an immature Caspian Tern with Mossbunker and small Bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*). Further, Osprey carrying fish were often pursued by Laughing, Ring-billed and Herring Gulls. While perched, Osprey occasionally were challenged for their fish by Great Blue Herons. Osprey never relinquished prey to these species. However, on 19 Oct, a partially eaten fish was pirated from an Osprey in midair by an immature Bald Eagle.

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NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Fulvous Whistling-Duck found dead in Bronx County: On 16 Nov 1990, a Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) was found dead in Pelham Bay Park, Bronx County, New York City. This represents the second documented occurrence of this species in the county, the first being in 1971 at nearby Van Cortlandt Park (Bull, J. Supplement to Birds of the New York City Area. *Linn. Soc. N. Y., Proc.* 71:1-54; 1971). A Fulvous Whistling-Duck had been reported from Pelham Bay approximately one week earlier by several observers, who saw it feeding with American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) and Mallard (*A. platyrhynchos*) in both fresh and salt water habitats. The intact carcass of the Fulvous Whistling-Duck was found by Hugh Martin and the author at the margin of a freshwater pond when an immature female Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) flew up from the body of the freshly dead bird. Although we did not see the hawk actually make the kill, the condition of the Fulvous Whistling-Duck when examined closely (full crop, no broken bones, and plumage in excellent condition) strongly suggests that predation by this hawk was the cause of death. The specimen was subsequently presented to the American Museum of Natural History and is now part of its permanent collection.

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Inland migration of Common Loon over the Finger Lakes Region of New York: The Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) is a local breeder in New York State, but it is not uncommon as a migrant inland during both spring and fall. The species is especially numerous along the south shore of Lake Ontario during migration. Although these migrants must pass over the bulk of inland New York on the way to and from the Atlantic coast wintering grounds, there are few records of large numbers away from Lake Ontario. Bull (1974. *Birds of New York State*. Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, NY) lists fall maxima from inland New York of 275 at Cayuga Lake on 9 Nov 1969, 700 off Rochester on 18 Nov 1967 and 600 there on 27 Nov 1963; and spring maxima of 550 at Oneida Lake on 12 Apr 1960, 350 off Pultneyville on 26 Apr 1962, and 700+ at Webster on 27 Apr 1974.

Only two inland maxima were obtained away from Lake Ontario, and all were recorded in April or November. On two occasions during November 1989, the author and other members of a graduate student birding group observed large numbers of migrant Common Loon at the south end of Cayuga Lake in Ithaca. On 10 Nov 1989 we counted 80+ individuals flying south over our lake side location from 7:30 to 9:30 AM. The following week on 17 Nov 1989, we tallied 400 loons in 2 hours (7:30-9:30 AM). The birds were migrating both singly and in groups of up to 10-15 individuals. It seemed quite obvious that the birds were using the lake as a natural "highway," as most were seen coming in over the lake, passing over us as they continued south. There were also many loons on the lake itself (30-40), including a single Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*).

Undoubtedly these birds were moving south from Lake Ontario towards the Atlantic Coast. It would be interesting to know whether Common Loon uses this route through Cayuga Lake (and the other Finger Lakes) regularly but are seldom detected in such large numbers, or if such maxima occur only under unusual circumstances. To investigate this question I examined the weather records (U. S. Environmental Data Service. 1953-1989. *Daily Weather Maps*. U.S. Weather Bureau, Washington, DC) for the day of and the day prior to each of the inland fall maxima reported in Bull (*op. cit.*) as well as for the days reported here. No simple set of weather circumstances linking the observations emerged from this analysis. Given the vagaries of weather, this comes as no surprise. There were, however, some general similarities in the weather between the days on which maxima were recorded. First, on all five dates a frontal system associated with a low pressure system was moving either over the region or just to the west of the area the day before or the day of the observation. Second, the region experienced precipitation the day before the observation, on the day of the observation, or on both; low pressure systems usually bring rain. Third, freezing temperatures often occurred just to the north or throughout the region before or on the day of the observation. That migrating birds often travel on the leading edge of frontal systems has been known for some time. From the available evidence it would appear that Common Loon is not different in this regard. The relative sparsity of records of large numbers of the species in the Finger Lakes region south of Lake Ontario is likely to be related to lower observer effort during their migration period. Observers are especially unlikely to be out under the conditions (*i.e.*, overcast, rainy weather) often associated with the detection of large numbers of loons over

inland New York. Birding at such times can be particularly rewarding since many other waterfowl, especially many sea ducks, migrate during the same period. Further information about the size and timing of migration in this region may be useful to those interested in censusing loons or other waterfowl.

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Tree Nesting Canada Goose at Caumsett State Park: Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) are year round residents in 1600 acre Caumsett State Park (CSP) on the north shore of Long Island. Pitocchelli and Capainolo (1989. *Check-list of the Birds of Caumsett State Park*. 2nd Edition. Queens College office of Publications, Flushing, NY) list it as a breeding species within the park boundaries. This designation is based on sightings of adults with goslings near Caumsett's fresh water pond in 1984 and 1985. On 1 May 1989, David Künstler and Jeff O'Handley observed a Canada Goose land clumsily on top of an old dead tree located close to the water on the south side of the pond. This goose settled into the bowl of the tree and assumed an incubating position. The bowl seemed fairly deep since only the head and several inches of the bird's neck were visible above the edge. Attempts to photograph the goose failed because of the depth of the bowl and height of the tree. The barkless tree was identified as Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*), with a height of 29 ft (8.7 m) and a diameter at breast height of 26.4 inches (68.3 cm). Due to surrounding foliage, nest tree weakness and the goose's position, I was unable to investigate the bowl by climbing or using a spotting scope. Between 3 and 7 May, Mary Richard observed a gander (presumably the mate of the goose in the tree) standing guard in open areas around the nest tree. He always displayed mild alarm by head-pumping and never direct forward attack as described by Blurton Jones (1960, in Palmer, R. S. 1976. *Handbook of North American Birds*, vol 2:221-222. Yale University Press, New Haven and London). A tree nest such as this is probably high enough to alleviate the need for a gander to defend with a full attack. By 11 May 1989 there was no sign of either bird. Possibly Raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) found the eggs and the geese deserted. More likely the eggs were in water most of the time, as it was a week of heavy rain. Perhaps the bowl of the tree prevented water from draining and the embryos perished. Tree nesting Canada Geese have been recorded since 1804 (Palmer. *op. cit.*) throughout North America and so the phenomenon is not new. To my knowledge

this is the first record of Canada Goose nesting in a tree in Caumsett State Park and should be of interest to local birders.

In addition to the individuals mentioned in this paper, I would like to thank Peter Schmidt for his enthusiasm and encouragement. My gratitude goes to Sheila Vaughn for proofreading and typing the manuscript.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

Add another year to the list of generally lackluster fall migration seasons. Although species counts were good for many Regions, the impressions of poor totals of individuals and of species with poor peak counts were numerous and widespread. As usual, weather played a strong but relatively fuzzy role. You will read of many frontal passages, but from the southwest rather than the northwest as is typical of fall. Thus, there were few groundings, particularly in the normal concentration points along the coast. We simply don't have enough historical data to relate weather patterns to expected patterns of observations. The simplest of observations can be explained: with abnormal system patterns, we missed groundings at normal places; peak raptor and shorebirds counts on the coast occurred on the two occasions of frontal passages from the northwest; a warm fall, especially in October and November, was accompanied by numerous late reports; and loads of great rarities were scattered over the state.

Looking more closely, we find weather patterns similar across the state: near normal to cool, with average to slightly deficient precipitation, over all but the southeast section in September, then all but Regions 6 and 7 warm and wet through both October and November. Record high temperatures were scattered all over the state in November, particularly near 28 Nov. Heavy storms hit central areas in mid October, with flooding noted in Region 3. There was note of high winds for Regions 5 and 7 and of the tail end of hurricane Lilli from Region 10. From Region 9 we hear of flowers and katydids through November. Food crops generally were noted as poor, except for acorns in Region 1, but were reported as good, including acorns, in Regions 4 and 9.

Some of the more general avian highlights may make sense in the context of these weather patterns. The southwesterly air flow may account for the many interesting heron records: Am. Bittern in seven Regions; Great Egret in eight Regions, including 26 in Region 1 and 16 in Region 3; an excellent high of 50 Black-crowned Night-Heron in inland Region 3; late Green-backed Heron in Region 8; very late Glossy Ibis in

Regions 1 and 2; and a very rare **White Ibis** in Region 1. Relatively poor waterfowl counts through the season also may owe to the disruption of normal weather patterns. The Region 3 report again provides peak counts for Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge for comparison with years past.

Other notes of particular interest include: a peak of only(!) 625 Wood Duck in Region 5; poor counts for N. Pintail and Redhead; and note of scoters on Cayuga Lake on 12 Oct after a storm and before their arrival in Region 5 to the north. For the raptor watchers we have notes from a new watch staffed for a second year on Franklin Mt. near Oneonta in Region 4, with some excellent numbers, especially for Red-tailed Hawk and Golden Eagle. From the longer term fall watches comes note of significant shifts in patterns, possibly excepting some of the stronger flyers which could ignore the unfavorable winds. The recent pattern of late Turkey Vulture reports extended to Regions 1, 5, 8 and 10, and Black Vulture was noted in Regions 9 and 10. The fall incursion of Rough-legged Hawk reached all Regions between 10 Oct and 11 Nov, with the best count an excellent 55 on the Pt. Peninsula in Region 6.

Shorebird reports were generally poor, owing mainly to a habitat problem stemming from too much precipitation. There were again good spots on Long Island, Region 3 provided good peak counts for Long-billed Dowitcher and Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes, and Region 10 yielded many late departure dates. All four regions bordering Lake Ontario produced jaeger reports. The most widespread rarities came from the gulls, with Lesser Black-backed Gull in eight Regions and, amazingly, Sabine's Gull in Regions 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 and 9. Region 10 produced a state record late Royal Tern. Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers received red flags from multiple Regions, while Alder Flycatcher set near simultaneous record late dates in Regions 2 and 9. As usual, swallow reports were too few for general assessment, but Region 10 noted very high counts over an extended period, 20 Sep to early October. Thrushes provided mixed reports, with concern expressed in Regions 6 and 9. Nonetheless, some very late dates came from Regions 6 and 10, with a state record late Veery in Region 10. Vireos and warblers collected widespread notes of concern; how much is directly due to the weather patterns? Highlights included many late dates in Region 10; only Region 5 noting any of the Blue-winged/Golden-winged Warbler complex; Orange-crowned Warbler in

Regions 2, 5, 6 and 10; N. Parula very scarce; Yellow-throated Warbler in Regions 4 and 10; record late inland Black-throated Blue Warbler in Region 4; and record late inland Bay-breasted Warbler in Region 2 and very late in Region 10. Adults feeding three young Black-throated Green Warbler on 15 Sep may be a record late fledging for that species. Concern was expressed for Brown Thrasher and Scarlet Tanager.

Winter incursive species were very poorly represented: owls were little mentioned, with Snowy Owl scarce although noted in four Regions; no movements of Red-breasted Nuthatch or Boreal Chickadee; Bohemian Waxwing only in Region 5; few Northern Shrikes, though recorded from seven Regions; and only scattered reports of finches, except for Pine Siskin in nine Regions (but in low numbers) and small numbers of Evening Grosbeak in all Regions.

Other notable reports include: **N. Gannet** in Regions 1 and 2 and at very high counts in Region 10; a very high count of Double-crested Cormorants in Region 3; **Sandhill Crane** in Regions 3 and 8 on 9 and 11 Oct, respectively; only three cuckoos reported. Common Nighthawk peaks continuing **low**; a good count of 590 Chimney Swift in Region 1; Common Raven in six Regions; and both Sedge Wren and Sharp-tailed Sparrow in Regions 2 and 3 during Oct.

Having dispensed with my traditional review, on to the true highlights, the confusion between the reports and the tabulated data and the super rarities. First, the statistics. Overall, 5 of the 10 Regions averaged significantly early departure dates, and the grand average over all Regions was very highly significantly early. Of the 62 species tracked, 46 averaged early across the 10 regions, 9 were a bit late, and 7 were right on their 25-year average value. Looking at the individual species over all the regional data, of the 525 (of a possible 620) dates actually reported this season, 77 varied more than 2 standard deviations from their 25-year local averages. Of these 59 were early and 18 were late. Now the confusion. This year I finally completed compiling the long-term data for Region 2 for comparison with the 25-year table of *Kingbird* dates to test the hypothesis that prior reporting guidelines had biased that table's data for Region 2 (and presumably other Regions). This year's departures ran about 3 days early relative to the 25-year base line, yet nearly 7 days late relative to the more complete, long-term Region 2 data. Similarly, shorebirds and warblers piled up a long list of late departure dates in the written Regional highlights this Fall, yet in analyzing the departure date data from this Fall's table, all shorebirds and 17 of the 20 warblers in the

Fall Departures 1990

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average
Osprey	30 Oct	12 Oct	20 Oct	31 Oct	14 Oct	4 Nov	8 Nov	30 Oct	25 Nov	29 Nov	1 Nov
Broad-winged Hawk		3 Sep	15 Oct	20 Sep	11 Sep	11 Sep	24 Sep	27 Oct	24 Oct	2 Oct	28 Sep
Black-bellied Plover	3 Nov	16 Nov			4 Nov	28 Sep					28 Oct
Semipalmated Plover	14 Oct	2 Oct	3 Oct	10 Sep	10 Nov	16 Sep				25 Nov	11 Oct
Greater Yellowlegs	25 Oct	9 Nov	15 Oct	30 Oct	5 Nov	10 Oct	3 Nov	27 Oct	7 Nov	5 Nov	29 Oct
Lesser Yellowlegs	25 Oct	11 Nov	7 Nov	15 Sep	20 Oct	3 Sep		19 Sep	21 Oct	5 Nov	14 Oct
Spotted Sandpiper	14 Oct	5 Oct		16 Sep	13 Oct	6 Oct			13 Oct	15 Sep	3 Oct
Sanderling	10 Oct	12 Nov			16 Nov	16 Sep					21 Oct
Semipalmated Sandpiper		2 Nov	3 Oct	9 Sep	10 Nov	3 Sep			15 Sep	20 Nov	9 Oct
Least Sandpiper	29 Sep	1 Oct	26 Sep	9 Sep	6 Oct				21 Sep	20 Nov	3 Oct
Pectoral Sandpiper	3 Nov	5 Nov	26 Sep	15 Oct	5 Nov	9 Sep			21 Sep	2 Oct	11 Oct
Caspian Tern	7 Sep	30 Sep	18 Sep		20 Oct	9 Sep			25 Aug	1 Oct	19 Sep
Common Tern	14 Nov	2 Nov	12 Sep		28 Oct	23 Oct			22 Sep	12 Oct	16 Oct
Black Tern	25 Sep	1 Sep			15 Sep					19 Sep	15 Sep
Chimney Swift	14 Sep	22 Sep	26 Sep	22 Sep	22 Sep	8 Sep		20 Sep	5 Oct	23 Sep	21 Sep
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	1 Oct	26 Sep	8 Oct	8 Oct	19 Sep	9 Oct	19 Sep	14 Oct	26 Sep	28 Sep	30 Sep
Eastern Wood-Pewee	30 Sep	7 Oct	23 Sep	14 Sep	5 Oct	27 Sep	27 Sep	13 Sep	5 Sep	14 Oct	25 Sep
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		25 Aug	17 Sep	9 Sep	12 Aug				3 Sep		31 Aug
Least Flycatcher	23 Sep	26 Sep	10 Sep	16 Sep	25 Sep		12 Sep	19 Sep	6 Sep		17 Sep
Eastern Phoebe	1 Nov	21 Oct	24 Oct	30 Oct	24 Oct	18 Oct	24 Oct	20 Oct	24 Oct	31 Oct	24 Oct
Great Crested Flycatcher	3 Sep	27 Sep		3 Sep	11 Sep	8 Sep	1 Sep	8 Sep	15 Sep	1 Oct	11 Sep
Eastern Kingbird	1 Sep	15 Sep	17 Sep	9 Sep	4 Sep		6 Sep	7 Sep	5 Sep	28 Sep	10 Sep
Tree Swallow	14 Oct	10 Nov	10 Sep	9 Sep	14 Oct	28 Sep	2 Sep	23 Sep	5 Oct	24 Nov	5 Oct
Barn Swallow	29 Sep	6 Oct	9 Sep	19 Sep	7 Oct	2 Sep		15 Sep	15 Sep	27 Sep	21 Sep
House Wren	14 Oct	14 Oct	4 Sep	8 Oct	9 Oct	7 Sep	1 Sep	8 Oct	8 Oct		28 Sep
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	15 Sep	13 Oct		29 Aug	13 Sep			27 Oct	9 Sep	27 Oct	27 Sep
Veery		5 Oct	22 Sep	16 Oct	2 Sep		1 Sep		20 Oct	29 Sep	26 Sep
Swainson's Thrush	14 Oct	20 Oct	17 Sep	16 Oct	12 Oct	16 Oct	8 Oct		30 Oct	16 Oct	13 Oct
Wood Thrush	14 Oct	17 Oct	4 Oct	20 Oct	29 Sep	13 Oct	29 Sep		10 Oct		9 Oct
Gray Catbird	25 Oct	17 Nov	20 Oct	15 Oct	14 Nov	7 Oct	11 Oct	15 Oct	22 Oct	31 Oct	23 Oct
Brown Thrasher	14 Oct	17 Oct	3 Sep	1 Oct	29 Sep		18 Sep	11 Sep	28 Sep	17 Nov	2 Oct

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average
Solitary Vireo	23 Oct	21 Oct	27 Sep	15 Oct	12 Oct	29 Sep	21 Oct	30 Sep	21 Oct	31 Oct	14 Oct
Yellow-throated Vireo	16 Sep	27 Sep	30 Sep	13 Sep	25 Sep			9 Sep	6 Sep	1 Oct	19 Sep
Warbling Vireo	22 Sep	18 Sep	29 Sep	17 Sep	10 Sep	10 Sep		11 Sep	30 Aug	18 Sep	14 Sep
Red-eyed Vireo	14 Oct	7 Oct	26 Oct	14 Oct	7 Oct	20 Sep	2 Sep	20 Oct	12 Oct	15 Oct	7 Oct
Blue-winged Warbler	8 Sep	4 Sep		14 Aug	18 Aug				5 Sep	25 Aug	27 Aug
Tennessee Warbler	14 Oct	7 Oct	29 Sep	13 Oct	5 Oct	2 Oct	1 Oct	24 Sep	3 Oct	1 Oct	3 Oct
Nashville Warbler	14 Oct	14 Oct	29 Sep	7 Oct	5 Oct	9 Nov	3 Oct	23 Sep	9 Oct	17 Oct	10 Oct
Northern Parula	29 Sep	7 Oct			15 Sep	27 Sep		23 Sep	9 Oct	1 Oct	28 Sep
Yellow Warbler	2 Sep	23 Sep	8 Oct	23 Sep	4 Sep	27 Sep		11 Sep	6 Sep	20 Sep	17 Sep
Chestnut-sided Warbler	25 Oct	24 Sep	12 Sep	16 Sep	16 Sep	18 Oct	5 Sep	3 Sep	8 Sep		20 Sep
Magnolia Warbler	14 Oct	20 Oct	30 Sep	8 Oct	4 Oct	2 Oct	8 Oct	15 Sep	27 Sep	17 Oct	5 Oct
Cape May Warbler	14 Oct	16 Sep	29 Sep	23 Sep	5 Oct	27 Sep	1 Sep	2 Sep	9 Oct	1 Nov	27 Sep
Black-thr Blue Warbler	13 Oct	5 Oct		14 Oct	17 Sep	1 Oct	25 Sep	15 Oct	4 Oct	1 Nov	7 Oct
Black-thr Green Warbler	16 Oct	7 Oct	8 Oct	5 Oct	9 Oct	2 Oct	26 Sep	30 Sep	15 Oct	4 Oct	6 Oct
Blackburnian Warbler	23 Sep	13 Oct	29 Sep	4 Sep	13 Sep	2 Oct	5 Sep	23 Sep	13 Sep	21 Sep	20 Sep
Bay-breasted Warbler	24 Sep	7 Oct	30 Sep	20 Sep	22 Sep	18 Oct		15 Sep		16 Nov	4 Oct
Blackpoll Warbler	9 Sep	26 Sep	30 Sep		4 Oct		12 Sep	19 Sep	17 Oct	5 Oct	26 Sep
Black-and-white Warbler	14 Oct	17 Sep		28 Sep	16 Sep	16 Sep	1 Sep	7 Nov	14 Sep	4 Oct	26 Sep
American Redstart	14 Oct	7 Oct	14 Oct	28 Sep	28 Oct	2 Oct	10 Sep	30 Sep	9 Oct	25 Oct	7 Oct
Ovenbird	28 Sep	16 Sep	17 Sep	28 Sep	5 Sep	17 Oct	14 Sep	3 Sep	14 Sep	24 Oct	22 Sep
N. Waterthrush	28 Sep	11 Sep		4 Aug	10 Sep			2 Sep		14 Oct	11 Sep
Common Yellowthroat	14 Oct	10 Nov	14 Oct	10 Oct	9 Oct	19 Sep	5 Oct	24 Sep	27 Sep	15 Oct	8 Oct
Wilson's Warbler	14 Oct	24 Sep	18 Sep	6 Oct	30 Sep			7 Nov		20 Sep	4 Oct
Canada Warbler	15 Sep	28 Sep	30 Sep	5 Sep	6 Sep		27 Sep	19 Sep	27 Sep	24 Sep	20 Sep
Scarlet Tanager	27 Sep	7 Oct	30 Sep	22 Sep	25 Oct	13 Sep	14 Oct	15 Oct	10 Oct	29 Oct	7 Oct
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	14 Oct	7 Oct	20 Oct	6 Oct	29 Sep	2 Sep	28 Sep	21 Sep	5 Oct	1 Oct	1 Oct
Rufous-sided Towhee	1 Nov	27 Oct	20 Oct	3 Nov	22 Sep		17 Oct	5 Oct	24 Oct	16 Oct	18 Oct
Lincoln's Sparrow	14 Oct	16 Oct	20 Oct	12 Oct	9 Oct		5 Oct	19 Sep	20 Oct	16 Oct	11 Oct
White-crowned Sparrow	5 Nov	10 Nov	2 Nov	22 Oct	31 Oct	11 Oct	26 Nov	25 Oct	4 Nov	1 Nov	1 Nov
Bobolink	28 Sep	11 Aug	17 Sep	9 Sep	3 Sep		29 Oct		17 Oct	15 Nov	27 Sep
Northern Oriole		12 Sep	10 Sep	1 Sep	6 Oct		6 Sep		30 Aug	1 Nov	18 Sep

Bold Regional Record Late*Italics* also isolated later report(s).

Region	Species Reported	Seasonality (days)	Advance (days)
Region 1	57	-2.8	4.3
Region 2	62	-3.1	5.1
Region 3	51	-6.3	-2.7
Region 4	55	-2.8	-5.3
Region 5	62	-6.0	0.2
Region 6	44	-2.3	-8.2
Region 7	39	1.1	-7.8
Region 8	45	-4.6	-4.1
Region 9	55	-8.3	-0.8
Region 10	55	-4.2	13.6

table averaged early departures, with all of the significantly different average dates early and, by a large majority, most of even the significant Regional differences falling early relative to the 25-year data.

The message is we need lots more data, gathered under careful guidelines or procedures consistently over many seasons, in order to make any real sense out of the apparent changes we are seeing in populations. Anecdotal reports should be examined with great care, if not suspicion.

In an upbeat finish, it was a **super** season for rarities. Nearly all Regions had visitors which could have reached the season's pedestal in most years. Let us just scan the best and you can read the reports for the rest: Region 1 - **White Ibis**, less than 10 prior state records, very few inland; Region 2 - third state record of **Fork-tailed Flycatcher**, which stayed for over a week; "**Audubon's**" **Warbler**, very rare; and "**Gray-headed**" **Junco**, although only a subspecies of Dark-eyed Junco (relocated again in the same park in February), apparently a first for the Northeast; Region 3 - **American White Pelican** and **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**; Region 5 - **Magnificent Frigatebird**, about the seventh state record, first upstate; Region 6 - **California Gull**, about the fifth for the state (we need a compilation to update this type of data since the 1976 *Supplement to Birds of New York State*); Region 7 - **Brewer's Blackbird**, joining the recent swelling of state records for this species; Region 8 - **N. Wheatear**, a very much sought after rarity; Region 9 - **Wood Sandpiper**,

the winner of the BOTS Award, a first live identification in the state for this species, normally an Attu target bird; and Region 10 - **Brown Booby**, about 3 prior state records; **Fulvous Whistling-Duck**; **Mountain Bluebird**; **Black-billed Magpie**; and "**Bullock's**" **Oriole**; as well as the usual hands and toes full of species the rest of us would rush about to add to our local or state lists. Is this a weather phenomenon, or another indication of population stresses causing lots of displaced individuals to wander????

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Standard abbreviations: county names are shortened to their first four letters and are in UPPER case; months are shortened to their first three letters; ! — details seen by Regional editor; ad — adult; Alt — Alternate plumage; arr — arrival or first of season; FL — fledgling; FY — adult feeding young; I — Island; imm — immature; *intro* — see introduction to report; j — juvenile; L — Lake; max — maximum; mob — multiple observers; NWR — National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC — report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P — Park; Pd — Pond; ph — photographed; Pt — Point; Res — Reservoir; SP — State Park; spm — specimen; subad — subadult; T — Town of; Twn — township; WMA — Wildlife Management Area; y — young.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

STEPHEN W. EATON

September on the Niagara Frontier was near average in temperature (61.7°) and rainfall (3.6 inches), only 0.2 inches above normal at Buffalo. At Amity Lake rain totaled 5 inches. The first frost in the valleys of the plateau occurred on 18 Sep, killing our zucchini squash. According to Gerry Rising (*Prothonotary* 56(10):117) nine fronts "marched through" the Region, mostly from the southwest, which must have reduced the number of groundings of night migrants. Northerly winds with fog are best for these bird fallouts. The first week of October was warm but with strong winds from the southwest. A tropical storm Raquel from the Pacific influenced the weather with a massive low swirling over us and as it passed drawing strong winds from the plains. These may have been responsible for some unusual sightings to the west and east of our Region, including a bird at Tifft Nature Preserve which may have been a White-faced Ibis. Temperatures for the month averaged 52.5° at Buffalo, about one degree above normal. Precipitation at Buffalo was 4.6 inches, 1.7 inches above normal. Soils were well saturated across the Region. The first killing frost occurred at Buffalo on 20 Oct and at Amity Lake on 27 Oct. November was generally warm and sunny. At Buffalo temperatures averaged 3.1° above normal and precipitation was low. Snow in Buffalo totaled only 12.8 inches, much below normal. At Amity Lake and our farm pond, skim ice developed on 15 Nov but later melted in sunny weather.

The waterfowl flight along the Lake Erie shore was "dismal", to quote Terry Mosher, and he didn't see one bay duck (*Aythya*). Counts on the Niagara River and Chautauqua Lake were also low, reflecting the relatively open season through the end of the period.

The fruit crop on the Allegheny Plateau was generally poor, except for the oaks in drier sites. Black Oak, Chestnut Oak, and Red Oak, generally found in more upland situations, produced excellent crops, which Wild Turkey flocks located. They made these hillsides appear like well used barnyards. Deer also found this abundant, but often isolated and seldom available, food source. There were very few wild Black Cherries on the upland forest trees of the unglaciated Allegany Hills, but some trees in the buffered soils of the lowlands produced good crops. Vivian Pitzrick said her cherry trees produced good crops, lasting

to 20 Oct. White Ash was unproductive as was Eastern Hemlock. Predictably, we observed few cardueline finches, with the exception of Evening Grosbeak, which fed on Box Elder and visited feeders in villages in modest numbers in November.

The warbler migration through the Region was light, according to three bird banders, Don Clark, Betsy Brooks and Dave Junkin. Arthur Clark, who monitors Buffalo's TV towers, agreed. In 2,857 net hours from 1 Aug to 15 Nov, Betsy Brooks banded 22 species of warblers but more than five individuals of only eight species: 11 Nashville, 41 Magnolia, 15 Yellow-rumped, 6 Black-throated Green, 8 Palm, 6 Bay-breasted, 7 American Redstart, and 35 Common Yellowthroat. Arthur Clark said the tower kill of about 250 individuals was well below average. Bob Sundell said the warbler migration in central and southern Chautauqua County was poor. The consensus was that, as in 1989, there were few combinations of strong fronts followed by good grounding conditions.

After the late summer sandpiper migration and the later warbler migration are essentially over, gull-fever strikes, particularly in the Buffalo area. Birders concentrate along the Niagara River to observe and monitor them. The usual full compliment of twelve species was reported for the period.

The most interesting and unusual species of the period were **Northern Gannet**, **White Ibis** and several *Plegadis Ibis*, including one which some thought might be a White-faced Ibis. In nonbreeding plumage, that species is identifiable only in hand (Rising, *Prothonotary* 56(11);132). Dunkirk Harbor may have been visited by another maritime species on 8 Nov. Terry Mosher reported that two duck hunters (also banders), Mike and David Rosing, saw what they took to be a Dovekie there 8 Nov, one day after a "blow," but it could not be verified.

Contributors: Allegany County Bird Club, Robert Andrlé, Tim Baird, Gordon Bellerby, Robert Brock, Elizabeth Brooks, Lois Buck, Ray & Cris Budniewski, Buffalo Ornithological Society, Lew & Doris Burton, Al Cala, Cattaraugus County Bird Club, Don and Jane Clark, Bruce Chilton, T. Collins, William D'Anna, Michael Galas, Joe Gula, Sr. & Jr., Linda Holms, Dave Junkin, Don Klaybor, Terry Mahoney, Terry & Judy Mosher, Raymond & Vivian Pitzrick, Rod & Marlene Planck, Betsy Potter, Fran Rew, Gerald Gising, Donald Roberson, Mike & David Rosing, Olga Rosche, Art Schaffner, Robert Sundell, Regina & Jim VanScoy, William Watson, John Wojewodzki.

Abbreviations: BH - Barcelona Harbor, Lake Erie; BIPB- Bird Island Pier, Buffalo; BOS - Buffalo Ornithological Society; ChauL - Chautauqua Lake; DH- Dunkirk Harbor; FNSP - Fort Niagara State Park; GHSP Golden Hill State Park;

INWR - Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; NF - Niagara Falls; NR - Niagara River; TNP - Tiff Nature Preserve; TWMA - Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: arr Wilson Twn 9 Oct; 15 over Athol Springs 6 Nov. Horned Grebe: arr Alfred Twn 2 Oct. Red-necked Grebe: arr NF 16 Nov. **Eared Grebe:** one FNSP 18-23 Nov (RA, RB, mob). **N. Gannet:** imm mouth NR 21 Nov (R&MP). Double-crested Cormorant: max 149 NF 20 Sep. Am. Bittern: one Bird Swamp CATT 29 Sep (TB); one Stockton Twn 23 Oct (JV, *fide* TM). Least Bittern: two TNP 2 Sep, late. Great Egret: max 26 TWMA 29 Sep; last five INWR 8 Oct. Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 11 Buffalo 23 Sep. **White Ibis:** one N Collins Twn ERIE 6-7 Nov (LH, mob). **Glossy Ibis:** one-two TNP 10-19 Oct (JW, mob), plus one 12-19 Oct (GR, TC, mob) thought possibly to be White-faced Ibis, *intro*. Tundra Swan: arr E Aurora 31 Oct, max 97 Mayville ChauL 30 Nov. Snow Goose: max ten Shelby Twn ORLE 8 Oct; six other sightings Sep-Oct, Nov. BOS. Brant: arr nine L Ontario ORLE 21 Oct; one Yates Twn 3 Nov. N. Plntail: max 101 INWR 3 Nov. N. Shoveler: max 35 INWR 3 Nov. Gadwall: max 62 INWR 3 Nov. **Eurasian Wigeon:** one-two TNP 24 Oct (DR). Am. Wigeon: max 98 TNP 23 Sep. Canvasback: max 1500 NF 3 Nov (BC, AS); 41 Celeron ChauL (RS). Redhead: arr TNP 11 Oct; max Celeron ChauL 31 Oct. Ring-necked Duck: max 149 Celeron ChauL 28 Nov. Greater Scaup: arr Shadagee NIAG 9 Oct. Oldsquaw: arr five GHSP 21 Oct. White-winged Scoter: arr 50 Shadagee NIAG 9 Oct. Ruddy Duck: max 57 Celeron ChauL 31 Oct.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: one Pembroke Twn 30 Oct, late migrant. Bald Eagle: three INWR and nearby 15 Sep, two imm 16 Sep; two imm Allegany SP 2 Oct; one imm GHSP 21 Oct; two INWR 23 Nov. N. Goshawk: one Lakeside SP 4 Nov. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Yates Twn 17 Nov, late. Rough-legged Hawk: arr three Yates Twn 3 Nov. Merlin: ad male DH 25 Sep. (DK *fide* TM); one GHSP 12 Oct; one Stockton Twn 3 Nov. Wild Turkey: large flocks Allegany Hills, feeding on acorns. Com. Moorhen: one TNP 6 Oct. Am. Coot: max 200 INWR 28 Sep. Lesser Golden-Plover: arr Prendergast Pt ChauL 7 Sep; one Yates Twn 3 Nov, late. Upland Sandpiper: two Clarence Twn 12 Sep, late. Purple Sandpiper: arr NF 23 Nov. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr Clarence Twn 16 Sep. Short-billed Dowitcher: one Buffalo 7 Oct, late. Red-necked Phalarope: max five TNP 25 Sep. Red Phalarope: arr BH 23 Sep (RS); one Tonawanda Water Treatment 6 Oct (TB). Parasitic Jaeger: one on L Erie 4 mi nw DH 12 Sep, imm dark morph (R&CB); one Athol Springs 6 Nov (RA). Franklin's Gull: arr BH 16 Sep; max four NR 1 Nov. Little Gull: max seven NR 1 Nov. Bonaparte's Gull: max 25,000 mouth NR 23 Nov. Iceland Gull: arr NR 3 Nov; max five 25 Nov. Lesser Black-backed Gull: arr NF 28 Oct, regular last decade. Glaucous Gull: arr Adam Beck Hydro NR 11 Nov. Greater Black-backed Gull: max 259 NF 29 Nov. Black-legged Kittiwake: max 6 Athol Springs ERIE 25 Nov. Sabine's Gull: imm 28 Oct, one NF 4 Nov, late. Com. Tern: max 460 NF 21 Sep. Forster's Tern: arr three ChauL 7 Sep. Black Tern: three BIPB 25 Sep, only report BOS.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Short-eared Owl: arr Porter Twn NIAG 22 Nov. N. Saw-whet Owl: one banded Alfred Twn 1 Oct (EB). Com. Nighthawk: max 160 Hamburg 6 Sep. Whip-poor-will: one Charlotte Twn CHAU 3 Sep; one banded Alfred Twn 19-21 Oct, late. Chimney Swift: max 590 BIPB 14 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Horned Lark: 75 Somerset Twn 27 Oct. only report period. Purple Martin: max 6,000-10,000 NR 23 Sep; 100 BIPB 25 Sep. N. Rough-winged Swallow: 200 Goat I NR 23 Sep. Bank Swallow: four BH 16 Sep, late. Cliff Swallow: six BH 16 Sep, late. Com. Raven: one Ellington 28 Sep. (AC *fide* RS). Winter Wren: arr Porter Twn NIAG 22 Sep. Marsh Wren: three Bird Swamp CATT 29 Sep (TB); one BIPB 10 Oct. E. Bluebird: max five Amity L ALLE Oct, two-three to 10 Nov; three E Aurora 25 Nov. Am Pipit: arr Clarence Twn 22 Sep; max 125 Pomfret Twn CHAU 3 Nov. Cedar Waxwing: max 285 GHSP 21 Nov. N. Shrike: arr Yates Twn 27 Oct, ten reports BOS 9-28 Nov.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Philadelphia Vireo: arr FNSP also TNP 2 Sep; one Bird Swamp CATT 29 Sep, late. Pine Warbler: arr INWR 16 Sep; one Pt Gratiot CHAU 22 Sep (TM, DK *fide* TM). Prairie Warbler: one Amity L ALLE 12 Sep, late. Palm Warbler: eight banded Alfred Twn 1, 3, 13 Oct (EB). Hooded Warbler: one Pomfret Twn CHAU 28 Sep, late.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: widespread arr 14 Oct. Snow Bunting: arr Lake Ontario Plain 21 Oct; max 2000± Yates Twn 3 Nov. Rusty Blackbird: max 60 E Aurora 4 Nov. Com. Grackle: 2000 Alabama Twn 4 Nov. Purple Finch: one-three males ERIE 1-15 Nov; one Amity L ALLE 5, 6, 18 Nov. Red Crossbill: arr 14 GHSP 10 Nov. White-winged Crossbill: arr one Amity L ALLE 23 Nov. Pine Siskin: one at feeder Eden Twn ERIE through period; max 15 GHSP 27 Oct. Evening Grosbeak: arr CATT, ALLE 14 Oct; max 56 Amity L ALLE 1-30 Nov; eight other reports BOS 14-30 Nov.

Ten Mile Road, Allegany, New York 14706

REGION 2 — GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

It was a fall to remember. A visitor from afar led the list. The weather and the resulting migration took a back seat. September was pretty much average. The temperature was slightly below average at 60.7°. The precipitation was 0.7 inches above normal at 2.66 inches. The coldest day of the month was on 18 Sep, when it reached 37°. October was a different story. The temperature range for the month was 56°, with a high of 83° on 6 Oct and a low of 27° on 27 Oct. The average was slightly above normal at 52.1°. It was also a wet month, with a total precipitation of 4.37 inches,

1.83 inches above normal. November was mild and wintry weather was postponed once again. There were six days with temperatures over 60°, and it reached a balmy 74° on 28 Nov. The average temperature of 42.4° was almost 2° above normal. The precipitation total of 2.27 inches was less than an half inch below normal.

The meteorological conditions seemed to have no significant effect on the migration, which was somewhat slow for the most part. There were few really good days of migration. October's species total was fairly good but numbers of individuals of some species seemed low again. The lack of consistent day to day coverage of the lakeshore may account for some of the lower totals. There were some late departures, including a record late Alder Flycatcher and a very late Bay-breasted Warbler. Some of the fall arrivals were late compared to recent trends, and the mild weather may have contributed to both of those trends.

The ornithological event of the season most assuredly was a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher**. Bob and Hedy Marcotte of Greece first spotted it along Moscow Road in Hamlin while taking their somewhat traditional Sunday tour of the west lakeshore birding spots. A phone call started a whirlwind of events that brought eager visitors to Moscow Road from around the country. The bird was first seen on 7 Oct and was last reported on 15 Oct. The events that led to its arrival are unknown, but this species often appears in North America at this time of the year.

Also of interest were two western subspecies seen during the season: an "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler and a "Gray-headed" Dark-eyed Junco in Hamlin. [*All such observations deserve review by the NYSARC - The Editor*]

Loon and grebe totals were only fair. Double-crested Cormorants, on the other hand, were present in large numbers throughout the season as they continued to increase here. The best of the long-legged waders were up to three Glossy Ibis, which remained through the period. Black-crowned Night-Heron persisted in number through the season. Also of interest were two reports of **Northern Gannet** from separate locations along the west lakeshore. This species has been reported a few times in recent years.

The waterfowl picture was somewhat muddled. Brant were noted on a few days, but no real buildup of Canada Goose was recorded along the lake. This is a recent trend. Other waterfowl seemed to be scarce early in the season but began to increase as the season progressed. Dark-

winged scoters were sighted in good numbers well offshore and Common Goldeneye produced good counts by the end of November. This was also true of mergansers. Hooded Mergansers persisted through the period. Puddle ducks were either about average or slightly down, and the hunting season made observations of this group difficult at times.

Shorebird totals were once again controlled by the availability of habitat. Numbers started out fairly good but dropped off quickly in October. Red Phalarope and Purple Sandpiper were obvious misses for the season. In recent years good numbers of jaegers have been seen from the Hamlin overlook. This year was not one of the good years. Critical weather patterns seemed to be missing and sightings were few. Gulls were not particularly numerous but provided some seasonal highlights, including **Sabine's Gull**, **Franklin's Gull**, and **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. Bonaparte's Gull showed good numbers late in the season, and a few Little Gull were reported with them. Tern totals were very weak this season. All expected species were seen but with substandard numbers of individuals.

Bald Eagle continued to show recovery, with a number of sightings from around the Region. Peregrine Falcon echoed the same trend with continued reports of this species. Snowy Owl was first reported in November, but few individuals lingered for extended observation. The fall movement of Short-eared Owl was noted at Beatty Point.

The passerine migration was slow. Sedge Wren, found for the first time in a couple of years, was a highlight of the season. A late Ruby-crowned Kinglet was also good. Gray-cheeked Thrush were reported at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station in good numbers. Warblers continued their downward trend. Sparrows were highlighted by a buildup at Beatty Point, the best a record maximum of at least six **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** on 6 Oct. The area also held large numbers of other species including Savannah, Swamp, Song, Field, White-throated and White-crowned Sparrow. Fox Sparrow was well reported in the Region and stayed later than usual at Durand-Eastman Park. The fall flight of finches was lackluster. A few Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak were joined by a scattering of Red Crossbill.

Contributors: Richard Ashworth, Sue Boettger, Nancy Boudrie, Elizabeth Brooks, Carolyn Cass, Belma Cerosaletti, Julie Claffey, Tomma Lisa Clark, Anne Clarridge, Mike Davids, Frank Dobson, Steve Donahue, John Foster, Kevin Griffith, Andy Grimsey, Bill Gruenbaum, Harriet Hamilton, Tom Hampson, Greg

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Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay; BPt - Beatty Point; DE - Durand-Eastman Park, Rochester; IB - Irondequoit Bay; PtB - Point Breeze; WL - west lakeshore (L Ontario shore w of Rochester).

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr Hamlin 20 Oct, max 44 there 17 Nov. Com. Loon: max 378 Hamlin 14 Nov. Horned Grebe: arr two Hamlin 13 Oct. Red-necked Grebe: one IB 23 Nov (NM), max three Hamlin Nov (mob). **N. Gannet**: subad Greece 8 Nov (KG), subad PtB 22 Nov (WL). Double-crested Cormorant: max 33 BB 6 Oct. Am. Bittern: last WL 3 Oct. Least Bittern: last one BB 12 Sep. Great Egret: one Greece 7 Nov, late. Green-backed Heron: last two Island Cottage 11 Oct. Glossy Ibis: one BPt 3-6 Oct (MD, KG), one-three BB during Nov (mob). Tundra Swan: arr Sodus 28 Oct. Mute Swan: max five BB Nov. Snow Goose: max 20 Hamlin 15 Oct. Brant: max 400 PtB 26 Oct. Canvasback: arr IB 26 Sep. Redhead: arr Greece 27 Sep. Ring-necked Duck: arr two Kendall 16 Sep. Oldsquaw: arr three Hamlin 20 Oct. Black Scoter: arr Hamlin 20 Oct. Surf Scoter: arr Hamlin 13 Oct. White-winged Scoter: arr Hamlin 15 Sep. Common Goldeneye: arr Hamlin 24 Oct. Bufflehead: arr WL 20 Oct.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: imm WL 15 Oct; imm BB 3 Nov. N. Goshawk: one BPt 21 Oct. Rough-legged Hawk: arr two WL 21 Oct. Merlin: one IB 9, 11, 15, 20 Sep; one Springwater 1-15 Oct. Peregrine Falcon: one BPt 1 Oct, one Hamlin 13 Oct, one BPt 16 Oct. Virginia Rail: one Brighton 2 Nov (CC), wintering? Com. Moorhen: last BB 19 Oct. Red Knot: one Charlotte 22-26 Sep; one Charlotte 3 Oct. Sanderling: last Charlotte 12 Nov. White-rumped Sandpiper: last IB 14 Nov. Dunlin: last BB 24 Nov. Long-billed Dowitcher: one IB 14 Sep. **Franklin's Gull**: one in Basic I plumage Charlotte 1 Oct (FD). **Sabine's Gull**: imm IB 14-15 Sep (MR). **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: ad IB 30 Sep (MAS). Forster's Tern: one Hamlin 10 Oct (DS), only report.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Snowy Owl: one Churchville 25-30 Nov. Long-eared Owl: one BB 17 Nov (RO'H), uncommon in fall. Short-eared Owl: arr two BPt 7 Oct. N. Saw-whet Owl: one Penfield 7, 25 Nov (RMC). Com. Nighthawk: max seven Rochester 26 Sep, last Island Cottage 6 Oct. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Lima 24 Nov, late.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Alder Flycatcher: last one singing BPt 14 Oct (DS), record late. Willow Flycatcher: last Powder Mill P 4 Sep. **Fork-tailed Flycatcher**: intro. Purple Martin: last two Island Cottage 11 Oct, late. Tree Swallow: max 7000 Greece 8 Sep. **Sedge Wren**: one BPt 14 Oct (R&SS), only

report for the season. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Greece 8 Sep, last DE 25 Nov (DH), late. Gray-cheeked Thrush: max 16 BB 26 Sep, last Island Cottage 4 Oct. N. Shrike: arr singles WL and Mumford 27 Oct.

VIREOS-WARBLES: Philadelphia Vireo: last Henrietta 15 Oct. Orange-crowned Warbler: one BPt 12 Oct. Yellow-rumped Warbler: one "**Audubon's**" Greece 3 Oct (FD). Pine Warbler: last BPt 7 Oct. Palm Warbler: last BPt 12 Oct. Bay-breasted Warbler: one DE 17 Nov, very late.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: last WL 27 Sep. **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**: intro (MD, KG, RMa). Fox Sparrow: last DE 12 Nov, late. Song Sparrow: max 100 BPt 7 Oct. White-throated Sparrow: max 200 BPt 7 Oct. White-crowned Sparrow: arr five WL 27 Sep, max 100 BPt 7 Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: one "**Gray-headed**" Hamlin 24 Nov (DS), first state record if accepted. Rusty Blackbird: arr two IB 14 Sep. Red Crossbill: one DE 16-17 Nov, one-three Chili several days Nov. Evening Grosbeak: arr five Manitou 24 Oct, max 59 Greece 22 Nov.

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, New York 14612

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

C.K. MELIN

Temperatures averaging 52° were normal for this Season. However, precipitation was 150 to 160 percent of normal, totaling as much as 14 inches for the Fall Season. This is about 5 inches more than is expected. September was cool and dry, with thunderstorms on 2 and 6 Sep, followed by the first strong cold front of the Season on 15 Sep. Frost conditions developed, on schedule, by 17 Sep, and there were record cold temperatures, in the thirties, on 18 Sep. Migrating waterfowl and shorebirds poured into the Region following this front. Temperatures were seasonal for the rest of the month, with heavy rains on 25 and 26 Sep. Following this weather disturbance, a single **American White Pelican** was reported by Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR) staff from 28 Sep until 4 Oct.

The trend of heavy rains continued through October, which was the fourth wettest (on a statewide basis) on record and the wettest since 1959. Two storm systems in succession on 9 and 11 Oct saturated the ground with up to two inches of rainfall. On 12 Oct, following these storms, the season's only reports of scoters came from Cayuga Lake. Most of the

month's precipitation fell following a Great Lakes cold front on 22 Oct, which had dropped as much as four inches of rain by 24 Oct. Small streams flowed over their banks and flooded roads throughout the Region, and a trailer park in Newfield was evacuated because of rising flood waters. After this cold front passed, there were impressive southward flights of 235 Common Loon and 430 Brant on Cayuga Lake (J. Wells). Maxima of waterfowl were present at MNWR in the week following this cold front, including 50,000 Canada Goose, 290 Pintail, 260 Blue-winged Teal, and 880 Lesser Scaup. This period also marked the arrival of winter residents into the Region, including Rough-legged Hawk, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Winter Wren, Evening Grosbeak, Tree Sparrow, and Snow Bunting.

November was slightly below normal in precipitation, with unusually warm and mild weather conditions and temperatures as high as 75° on 3, 8, 15, and 28 Nov. There was a single heavy rainstorm on 10 Nov which caused some local flooding because of the already saturated ground conditions. Waterfowl maxima at Montezuma NWR during November were: 19,000 Mallard, 15,000 Am. Black Duck, 230 Redhead, 600 Ring-necked Duck, 6,600 Canvasback, 180 Hooded Merganser, and 1,100 Common Merganser.

As expected, Montezuma NWR had a number of interesting reports this season. In addition to the concentrations of waterfowl described above, there were high numbers of other species as well. Maxima of several common species were: 540 Double-crested Cormorant, 16 Great Egret, 226 Great Blue Heron, and 50 Black-crowned Night Heron. Two Osprey and four Bald Eagle were present this Fall. May's Point Pool at the refuge had its greatest shorebird species variety ever this Fall. A total of 22 shorebird species were present on mudflats created by lowered water levels in the Pool. Common species present in the hundreds were: Semipalmated Plover, Lesser Yellowlegs, Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, and Long-billed Dowitcher. Also present in smaller numbers were Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Stilt Sandpiper, and Common Snipe. Uncommon species, numbering 10 or fewer individuals each observation, included Hudsonian Godwit, Black-bellied Plover, Lesser Golden-Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, and both Wilson's and Red-necked Phalarope. No Marbled Godwit was observed in this fall's collection of shorebirds,

but there was one Merlin and one Peregrine Falcon hunting among them. Gull numbers continue to increase, with maxima of 779 Ring-billed Gull, 80 Herring Gull, and 18 Great Black-backed Gull present in addition to a single **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (J. Wells). There was even a confirmed sighting of a single **Sandhill Crane** on 9 Oct. All the expected swallows were present, as well, including thousands of Tree Swallow late in September and smaller numbers or singles of Purple Martin, Northern Rough-winged, Bank, Cliff, and Barn Swallows.

At Kestrel Haven Farm near Burdett, John and Sue Gregoire banded a total of 143 species this year, including nine new species this Fall. Species of particular interest which were banded this Fall were: Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Philadelphia Vireo, Hooded Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, and Lincoln's Sparrow. Other *Empidonax* flycatchers, Swainson's Thrush, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker were also banded, as were Winter Wren and Red-breasted Nuthatch.

Highlights of the season included **Am. White Pelican**, **Sandhill Crane**, Red-necked Phalarope, **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, Connecticut Warbler, Sedge Wren, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow,

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ABBREVIATIONS: MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; StP - Stewart Park, Ithaca; ATP - Allan Treman Marine Park, Ithaca; TNC - Tanglewood Nature Center.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon; *intro.* **Am. White Pelican**: *intro.* Brant: *intro.* Wood Duck: 50+ Tobehanna L 6 Oct. Black Scoter: 46+ Ithaca 12 October StP (Wells). Surf Scoter: two males ATP 12 Oct (JW). White-winged Scoter: seventeen StP 12 Oct (JW). Tundra Swan: eight Elmira 28 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Golden Eagle: one TNC 21 Oct. Bald Eagle: one Waverly 5 Sep, one Wellsburg 26 Oct. **Sandhill Crane**: one Big Flats until 21 Oct; *intro.* N. Harrier: four Burdett 14 Sep. Wild Turkey: widespread, local flocks of 100+. Ring-necked Pheasant: present Burdett all Season, at least three broods of 15-19 y (J&SG). Hudsonian Godwit: two MNWR 8 Sep. Lesser Golden-Plover: max two MNWR 16 Sep. Baird's Sandpiper: five MNWR present all Sep. Long-billed Dowitcher: forty j MNWR 30 Sep (JW). Wilson's Phalarope: max seven MNWR all Sep. Red-necked Phalarope: two MNWR present all Sep, max four MNWR 30 Sep. Bonaparte's Gull: two MNWR 30 Sep. Caspian Tern: singles present MNWR, Ithaca until 30 Sep. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: ad MNWR until 21 Oct; ad StP 29 Sep, one second-winter StP 12 Oct (JW).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Short-eared Owl: two Burdett Nov. Com. Nighthawk: flocks of 8-12 Elmira 1-7 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Sedge Wren: one ATP 12 Oct (JW). Olive-sided Flycatcher: banded all Sep (Gregoire). Com. Raven: present Burdett 16, 19 Oct, seen harassing a Rough-legged Hawk (J&SG). Gray-cheeked Thrush: banded Burdett 19-22 Sep (J&SG). Fish Crow: seven Ithaca all season.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Philadelphia Vireo: banded Burdett between 27 Sep-9 Oct (J&SG). Hooded Warbler: banded Burdett 11-24 Sep (J&SG). Connecticut Warbler: male ATP 19 Oct (JW), banded Burdett 13-17 Sep (J&SG). Wilson's Warbler: one Weedsport 7 Oct, also banded Burdett 13-18 Sep (J&SG).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Lincoln's Sparrow: banded Burdett 1-20 Oct (J&SG). Sharp-tailed Sparrow: one ATP 5 Oct (Wells). Rusty Blackbird: 100s MNWR during Oct.

449 Irish Settlement Road, Freeville New York 13068

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

MARY DOBINSKY

Fall 1990 was both warmer and wetter than usual. Recurring periods of Indian Summer (there were three in November alone) continued until 28 Nov. Temperatures that day soared to the low 70s setting Regional record highs for the month. Although temperatures the last two months of the period were higher than normal, September readings were 2° below the norm of 57.9°. Coldest mid month, some areas were hit by their first frost on 18 Sep. Others were spared until mid October. Precipitation all three months was above average but October was the worst. Rainfall varied from a near record 7.19 inches in Binghamton (3 inches on 23 Oct alone) to 4.59 inches in Oneonta where the month's average was still 2 inches above normal. Although November precipitation of 3.20 inches was only slightly over average, it brought the 11-month total to 40.75 inches, several inches above normal. The first measurable snowfall occurred on 29 Oct and the next on 12 Nov but both melted quickly. No really strong weather fronts hit the area. At the end of the fall period, the ground was still mostly bare. Water levels, which had been good for ducks, were still high and lakes and streams remained about 95% open.

The count of 3231 migrating raptors topped Region 4's birding achievements this fall. The site of the hawkwatch was the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society Sanctuary atop Franklin Mt., south of Oneonta. The organization of this monitoring program last fall went unreported due to absence of a Region 4 report. At the end of last season, observers claimed that the Franklin Mt. location was one of the best Red-tailed Hawk and Golden Eagle migration sites in the East. Hawkwatch 1990 justified their faith. They tripled the number of manned hours at the site and counted four times the number of raptors spotted in 1989. The program got under way this fall 8 Sep, 16 days ahead of last year's opening date. The advanced start let participants catch peak dates for Osprey and Broad-winged Hawk migration, which was missed last year. Red-tailed Hawk dominated the skies from 17 Oct until mid Nov, reaching a maximum of 914 birds on 26 Oct and a season's total of 2249 birds. This was almost two-thirds of all hawks seen. Golden Eagle increased from last year's 12 to a total of 41, with a maximum of 18 on 8 Nov. This year's addition of N. Goshawk, Merlin and Peregrine rounded out the species list to include all raptors normally seen in the East with the exception of Bald Eagle. Albeit they missed the mountain, Bald Eagle were reported at Whitney Point and Cannonsville Reservoirs. Andy Mason, who has coordinated the hawk watch both years, gave special credit for its success to Ron Milliken, Apalachin. "He put in 90% of the hours," said Andy.

"Western" Palm Warbler was the most unusual species reported this fall, but many other uncommon birds were present. Among water birds, Am. Bittern, Snowy Egret and Brant made surprise appearances. Thirteen species of ducks matched top totals of other years. Shorebirds were mostly singles but did include a Regionally uncommon Sanderling. Short-eared and N. Saw-whet Owl boosted excellent counts for our three more common owl species. The Short-eared Owl, spotted at the Waterman Center in November by Doug Weeks and Sheila Murphy, was assumed to be the same bird seen several times last winter. That, in turn, was the first of the species since 1985. A mixed flight of about 300 swallows was spotted at N. Norwich Marsh on 9 Sep by Don Windsor, Chad Covey and Jay Lehman. Most thrushes and vireos remained later than usual, tempted perhaps by the abundance of berries. Warblers, on the contrary, were generally scarce and departed early. One exception was a record late Black-throated Blue Warbler at Cutler and Jeanette

Baldwin's Owego feeder on 25 Nov. Low sparrow counts were especially noticeable for Savannah, Swamp and White-crowned Sparrows. And it doesn't look like a good year for winter finches if the scattering of Pine Siskin is any indication.

The number of bird species listed this fall added up to a whopping 180. It might even be a record! For the 11 years prior to 1990, the previous high was 170 birds in 1987 and 1988. And still we missed Red-necked Grebe, Am. Coot, Water Pipit, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Blackpoll Warbler.

Observers: Cutler & Jeanette Baldwin, Ronald & Jean Barnes, Don & Judy Bell, Reynolds Bennett, Les Bemont, Bruce Bozdos, Mildred Clark, Chad Covey, Marilyn Davis, Sadie Dorber, Margaret Ferranti, Polly & Earl Getlein, M. Gregory, Gail Kirch, Sandy Kistner, Margaret Layton, Jay Lehman, S. Levin, Harriet Marsi, Rick Marsi, Ron Milliken, Marie Petuh, Steven Rice, Joe Sedlacek, Tom & Norene Tasber, B. Titus, Doug Weeks, Kathryn Wilson, Donald Windsor, Irene Wright.

Abbreviations: FrMt - Franklin Mt.; NVy - Newark Valley; OnRes - Oneonta Reservoir; OPM - Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford; NNM - North Norwich Marsh; WPR - Whitney Point Reservoir.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: only one WPR 26 Nov (MP, MF). Pied-billed Grebe: arr OnRes 12 Sep; last of five reports 27 Oct. Horned Grebe: only report OnRes 26 Oct. Double-crested Cormorant: max four WPR 20 Oct; three other Oct reports. Am Bittern: singles NNM 15 Sep and Oneonta 17 Sep, often missed. Great Blue Heron: 30 Sep, 8 still Nov, last two 29 Nov. Great Egret: one Owego 3 Sep (JS); max two 17 Sep Chenango Forks (MDv); one TIOG Nov (DW, SM) late, excellent count. Snowy Egret: one Binghamton 2 Sep (SR), one TIOG Sep (RB). Green-backed Heron: 11 Sep reports; one TIOG Oct (D&JB), late. Snow Goose: max 50 Norwich 15 Oct (DW); five TIOG reports Oct & Nov. Brant: three reports, TIOG 14 Oct (C&JB); BROO 24 Oct (ML) and 2 Nov (HM&BB), often missed. Canada Goose: max 350 BROO 1 Oct, high counts through Oct. Swan (Chinese) Goose: near New Berlin CHEN 24 Nov (DW), probably an escape. Wood Duck: max 40 OTSE 19 Sep, good counts through Oct, last BROO 11 Nov. Green-winged Teal: arr NNM 9 Sep, max five OnRes 9 Oct; one TIOG Oct. Am. Black Duck: max 28 BROO 9 Oct, two Nov reports BROO and DELA. Mallard: abundant all season; max 60 BROO 9 Sep. N. Pintail: one NNM 20 Oct, only report. Blue-winged Teal: one NNM 9 Sep, only report. Am. Wigeon: arr TIOG 15 Oct (C&JB); six WPR 20 Oct (T&NT). Ring-necked Duck: arr six WPR 2 Oct; last of three other reports one 7 Nov. Lesser Scaup: eight Dean's Pd 22 Oct and 2 Nov; last WPR 7 Nov. Oldsquaw: one WPR 20 Oct (T&NT) only report. Black Scoter: max eight WPR 20 Oct; one Chen L 24 Nov. White-winged Scoter: one WPR 20 Oct (T&NT), only report. Com. Goldeneye: two Chen L 12 and 19 Nov, only ones. Bufflehead: max four BROO 31 Oct; last of five other reports 9 Nov. Hooded

Merganser: arr BROO 22 Oct; max 26 Dean's Pd 17 Nov (MDv). Com. Merganser: max 24 WPR 25 Nov. Ruddy Duck: six Owego 23 Oct (MP, BT, MG), only report.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: FrMt hawkwatch totals:

Species	1989	1990
Osprey	4	61
N. Harrier	10	34
Sharp-shinned Hawk	25	289
Cooper's Hawk	8	17
N. Goshawk		5
Red-shouldered Hawk	9	17
Broad-winged Hawk	2	335
Red-tailed Hawk	658	2249
Rough-legged Hawk	1	9
Golden Eagle	12	41
Am. Kestrel	5	36
Merlin		2
Peregrine Falcon		3
Unidentified	71	101
Totals	815	3231

Ring-necked Pheasant: five singles TIOG Oct/Nov, one OTSE, BROO, good count. Ruffed Grouse: common BROO, CHEN (JS) Oct/Nov. Wild Turkey: max 20 BROO 17 Oct (FHNC staff); common (JS). Virginia Rail: one Triangle 4 Oct (T&NT), late. Semipalmated Plover: two BROO reports 10 Sep, only reports. Killdeer: max 29 BROO 23 Sep and 6 Oct; last two 2 Nov. Greater Yellowlegs: two OnRes 8-30 Oct; one BROO 23 Oct, only reports. Lesser Yellowlegs: one BROO 10 Sep (HM, BB); one 15 Sep (SL). Solitary Sandpiper: only reports CHEN, last 14 Oct, scarce. Spotted Sandpiper: one CHEN 10 and 16 Sep, only reports. Sanderling: only one TIOG Sep (RB). Semipalmated Sandpiper: one Vestal 9 Sep (SR), only report. Least Sandpiper: only one CHEN 9 Sep. Pectoral Sandpiper: one OnRes 10-12 Oct; one Endicott 15 Oct, scarce. Com. Snipe: one CHEN 15 Sep; one Owego 22 Sep, only reports. Am Woodcock: two TIOG early Nov (JS), only report. Ring-billed Gull: max up to 250 WPR 20 Oct. Herring Gull: max 25 BROO 30 Oct.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: max 65 Delhi 25 Nov (MC). E. Screech-Owl: seven reports BROO, TIOG to 2 Nov. Great Horned Owl: max four heard BROO 20 Nov (JS). Barred Owl: ten TIOG and four BROO reports Sep through Nov, high count. Short-eared Owl: *intro*. N. Saw-whet Owl: one banded Vestal 22 and 28 Oct, first since 1984. Com. Nighthawk: last six BROO 22 Sep (BB). Whip-poor-will: only one banded Vestal 14 Oct. Chimney Swift: max 16 Otsiningo Pk 10 Sep; last BROO 22 Sep. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: several late Sep reports, last Oneonta 8 Oct, latest since 1982. Red-headed Woodpecker: only one S Vestal 21 Oct (SD). Red-bellied Woodpecker: one TIOG Sep (R&JB), one banded NVy Oct (JB), one Apalachin Nov (P&EG). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: last of 14 reports one TIOG 22 Oct. Pileated Woodpecker: excellent counts all season.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: max six BROO 9 Sep. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: only one banded Vestal 9 Sep. Least Flycatcher: last two Vestal, one (SR), one banded (HM). Great Crested Flycatcher: only one Oneonta 3 Sep. E. Kingbird: only three reports. Horned Lark: single report BROO 9 Nov (HM, BB), often missed. Tree Swallow: 150 NNM 9 Sep, only report. Bank Swallow: 50 NNM 9 Sep, only report. Cliff Swallow: 25 NNM 9 Sep, only report. Barn Swallow: max 75 NNM 9 Sep. Tufted Titmouse: excellent counts continue especially BROO, TIOG. Carolina Wren: high counts Oct/Nov. Winter Wren: max four BROO 1 Oct; one banded NVy 7 Oct; last two BROO 19 Nov, high count and late. Marsh Wren: one CHEN 9 Sep, only report. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr Triangle 24 Sep, excellent counts. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 42 BROO 3 Sep; last BROO 11 Nov. E. Bluebird: max 30 OPM 7 Oct; last CHEN 4 Nov. Veery: 11 scattered reports through Sep; last banded Vestal 16 Oct. Gray-cheeked Thrush: singles banded Vestal 13 & 27 Sep, 8 Oct. Swainson's Thrush: six banded Vestal 15 Sep-16 Oct; one BROO 28 Sep, high. Hermit Thrush: max and last five banded Vestal 21 Oct. Brown Thrasher: four reports. Cedar Waxwing: max 200 OPM 11 Sep. N. Shrike: one Trout Creek DELA 28 Nov (SK), often missed.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Yellow-throated Vireo: last of six reports one OPM 13 Sep, late. Philadelphia Vireo: one banded Vestal 16 Sep, only report. Tennessee Warbler: four reports. Nashville Warbler: six reports. Yellow Warbler: two BROO 23 Sep last of eight reports. Chestnut-sided Warbler: max three OPM 13 Sep. Magnolia Warbler: last two BROO, OTSE 8 Oct. Black-throated Blue Warbler: *intro*. Cape May Warbler: arr BROO 3 Sep; one OPM 6 Sep; singles banded NVy 15 and 23 Sep, only reports. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 14 OPM 8 Oct; last BROO 27 Oct. Black-throated Green Warbler: max 20 OPM 13 Sep. Blackburnian Warbler: arr BROO 1 Sep, max and last three OPM 4 Sep. Pine Warbler: one NVy Sep, one Triangle 24 Sep, often missed. Prairie Warbler: single FHNC 29 Sep, only report. Palm Warbler: one Eastern race Triangle 16 Sep; one Western race banded Vestal 22 Sep (HM, GK). Bay-breasted Warbler: two OPM 13 and 20 Sep, only reports. Black-and-white Warbler: ten reports. Am. Redstart: six reports. Ovenbird: five banded Vestal four Sep dates. Com. Yellowthroat: 25 reports. Hooded Warbler: last one CHEN 5 Sep. Wilson's Warbler: arr FHNC 7 Sep; one banded NVy 6 Oct last of eight reports. Canada Warbler: singles BROO, CHEN, OTSE all 5 Sep, only reports.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: max four OPM 10 Sep, three TIOG reports, last two banded Vestal 16 and 22 Sep, scarce. N. Cardinal: several reports to 3/day through, excellent count. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: one CHEN 6 Oct last of three Oct reports. Indigo Bunting: one TIOG report, max and last 18 OPM 11 Sep. Rufous-sided Towhee: three BROO 3 Nov, late. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Triangle 14 Oct. Chipping Sparrow: max 20 Oneonta 13 Sep, three banded Vestal 21 Oct, last 24 Oct. Field Sparrow: last two Oneonta 24 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: only two BROO 19 and 22 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: singles BROO 2 Sep, OEM 19 Sep, CHEN 6 Oct, only reports. Fox Sparrow: three singles BROO, TIOG

Oct, last Oneonta 14 Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: one banded Vestal 5 and 12 Oct, only reports. Swamp Sparrow: four OPM 20 Oct, last banded Vestal 21 Oct. White-throated Sparrow: 42 banded Vestal 6-31 Oct, 14 on 21 Oct. White-crowned Sparrow: scattered reports 1-22 Oct, early departure and scarce. Dark-eyed Junco: max 70 at three sites OPM 22 Oct. Snow Bunting: arr 25 WPR 2 Nov (MP, mob). Bobolink: three OPM 4 Sep; last CHEN 9 Sep, only reports. E. Meadowlark: max six Lisle 4 Nov, scattered reports through 11 Nov. Rusty Blackbird: only one Triangle 14 Oct. Com. Grackle: diminishing reports through Nov. Brown-headed Cowbird: last two Delhi 27 Nov. N. Oriole: one Sep report TIOG, early departure. House Finch: abundant up to 60/day feeders. Purple Finch: up to 15 Oct/Nov reports, good count. Pine Siskin: arr TIOG Sep, other reports of 1-3 birds after 20 Oct. Evening Grosbeak: arr five sites TIOG 25 Oct, max 100 Triangle 23-24 Nov.

7 Spencer Drive, Oneonta, New York 13820

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

GENE HUGGINS

The period was very warm, wet, windy and cloudy. The average temperature for September was slightly below normal, but the average temperature for both October and November was 1.6° above the norm. A record low of 36°F occurred on 18 Sep near Syracuse, with the thermometer reaching single digits on 9, 15 and 19 Nov in the Adirondacks. The last half of November produced record highs of 71°F on 16 Nov and a balmy 74°F on 28 Nov. Precipitation exceeded both September and October's norm by 1.6 inches. In fact, a record 1.23 inches of rain fell on 11 Oct, bringing that month's total to 6.09 inches, the eighth wettest on record. The first snowfall to occur was on 19 Oct in both the southern and northern portions of the Region. At the season's end, eight inches of snow had fallen, only to melt away due to above average temperatures. Warm calm days alternated with spectacular winds, including monthly peaks of 41 mph from the south on 14 Sep, contrasting with more northerly winds of 44 mph on 18 Oct and 53 mph on 25 Nov. In summation, the water tables were overflowing and the Adirondacks witnessed only 31 clear days for the period.

The waterfowl flight was not particularly impressive, with only Green-winged Teal, Mallard, N. Shoveler, Oldsquaw and Hooded Merganser appearing in numbers that were average or above. The maximum for Hooded Merganser was the highest since 1973. Populations of dabbling ducks were relatively higher at protected resting locations like Beaver Lake and Woodman's Pond than on Lake Ontario or the east end of Oneida Lake. Wood Duck was not nearly as numerous as it had been in previous years at Toad Harbor. The highlight of this fall's birding was a Regional first **Magnificent Frigatebird**. This spectacular vagrant was observed for about two minutes at a distance roughly 100 yards from the bluff at Derby Hill on 23 Sep (Sue Adair, Ruth Knight, Bill Purcell and Marge Rusk; reports to NYSARC).

With light north winds occurring throughout the morning of 11 Sep, seven species of raptors passed over the open lake plain near Pulaski. Broad-winged Hawk had with a maximum of over 200 for the day. Further to the west near Hastings on the lead edge of an advancing lake effect storm, over fifty Red-tailed Hawks passed southward on 8 Nov. Reports of falcons were up this season with a Merlin occupying the ledges of buildings in downtown Syracuse.

Lack of plowed fields immediately south and east of Oneida Lake, along with soggy conditions made for a generally poor shorebird flight. Notable were the scarcity of Black-bellied Plover observed across the Region. The only misses were Hudsonian Godwit and Baird's Sandpiper. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Sandy Pond was the first in two years, and both Purple Sandpiper and Red-necked Phalarope appeared for the second consecutive year. A **Franklin's Gull** and several Little Gull helped to sharpen the observational skills of some local birders. Sightings of Black-legged Kittiwake, **Sabine's Gull** and Forster's Tern during mid September further highlighted this season's gull reports.

Most flycatchers had left our area by 25 Sep, with Olive-sided Flycatcher and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher being missed during the period. Significant numbers of Tree Swallow were found at Sandy Pond in early September with a maximum of 85 lingering at Fairhaven until mid October. No swallow counts above 100 were obtained after 10 Sep. Besides their usual locations in Syracuse, Carolina Wren was found in several areas in the highlands of southern Onondaga and Madison Counties. A minor incursion of Bohemian Waxwing occurred at Sandy Pond during mid September, but was short-lived with only one separate account later on. Unfortunately, the warbler flight was very poor, with Yellow-rumped Warbler showing the highest maximum. Blue-winged Warbler, N. Parula, Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler and Ovenbird departed earlier than normal. The only rarity was a Connecticut Warbler banded by Doug Whitman near Marcellus. Am. Tree Sparrow and Snow Bunting arrived toward the end of October. White-throated Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco were present in moderate numbers especially along the Lake Ontario littoral. Among finches, White-winged Crossbill, Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak showed up in widely scattered locations, but in low numbers.

A total of 216 species were reported with the **Magnificent Frigatebird** ranking as the most outstanding. Two other rarities were the **Franklin's Gull** and **Sabine's Gull**, the first observations in three years. Other notable reports included Red-necked Grebe, Great Egret, Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Purple Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Little Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Forster's Tern, Gray Jay, Bohemian Waxwing and Connecticut Warbler.

A special thanks to Gary Lee and Marge Rusk for contributing a large portion of the introduction.

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Abbreviations: Adks - Adirondacks; DH - Derby Hill, OSWE; FH - Fairhaven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, CAYU; LOL - Lake Ontario littoral, OSWE; NPT - northern Pompey Township, ONON; SPd - Sandy Pond, OSWE; SSSP - Selkirk Shores State Park, OSWE; SVB - Sylvan and Verona Beach, ONEI.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr DH 26 Oct. Com. Loon: arr SPd 15 Sep, max 96 LOL 7 Nov. Pied-billed Grebe: max three each from FH, Onondaga L and Delta L. Horned Grebe: arr DH 28 Oct, max 21 LOL 7 Nov. Red-necked Grebe: singles SPd 13 Nov, Oneida L 23 Nov, Woodman's Pd MADI 21-24 Nov. Double-crested Cormorant: max 80 DH 24 Oct. **Magnificent Frigatebird**: *intro*. Am. Bittern: last FH 14 Oct. Great Blue Heron: max 28 Delta L 9 Sep. Great Egret: one Port Byron 1 Sep, two SVB 2-22 Sep, last FH 9 Nov (R Knight), record late. Green-backed Heron: last Holland Patent 14 Oct. Tundra Swan: five FH 12 Nov, two Bridgeport after 24 Nov. Snow Goose: max 100 Holland Patent 15 Oct, last two Woodman's Pd 30 Nov. Brant: arr and max 400 DH 19 Oct. Canada Goose: max 2,000 DH 30 Sep. Wood Duck: max 625 Toad Harbor 3 Sep, last Erieville 30 Nov. Green-winged Teal: max 38 Delta L 17 Sep. Am. Black Duck: max 93 Woodman's Pd 25 Nov. Mallard: max 535 Woodman's Pd, Erieville 28 Nov. N. Pintail: max 35 DH 30 Sep. Blue-winged Teal: max 17 Delta L 17 Sep, last Biddlecum 25 Sep. N. Shoveler: max seven Beaver L 21 Oct, only report. Gadwall: arr SPd 29 Sep, max 23 FH 14 Oct. Am. Wigeon: max 202 FH and Beaver L 21 Oct. Canvasback: arr Toad H 8 Nov, max 13 Cazenovia L 28 Nov. Redhead: one Woodman's Pd 21-30 Nov, only report. Ring-necked Duck: arr SPd 29 Sep, max 140 Clay 8 Nov. Greater Scaup: arr DH 15 Sep, max 275 Toad H 1 Nov. Lesser Scaup: arr Onondaga L 24 Sep, max 22 Toad H 31 Oct. Oldsquaw: arr Jamesville Res 12 Oct, max 560 DH 26 Oct. Black Scoter: arr DH 19 Oct. Surf Scoter: arr DH 19 Oct. White-winged Scoter: arr DH 16 Oct, max 95 there 24 Oct. Com. Goldeneye: arr DH 26 Oct, max 197 FH 23 Nov. Bufflehead: arr FH 13 Oct, max 40 there 23 Nov. Hooded Merganser: arr Beaver L 21 Oct, max 172 SPd 16 Nov. Com. Merganser: arr Delta L 9 Sep, max 50 there 23 Sep. Red-breasted Merganser: arr SPd 10 Sep, max 3000 Oswego H 24 Nov. Ruddy Duck: arr Beaver L 21 Oct, max 27 there 4 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: last Clay 8 Nov. Bald Eagle: one Rondaxe L Adks 4 Oct, only report. N. Harrier: max ten Pulaski 11 Sep. Sharp-shinned Hawk: arr Port Byron 1 Sep, max 28 Pulaski 11 Sep. N. Goshawk: three reports. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Hastings 8 Sep, only report. Broad-winged Hawk: arr Hastings 8 Sep, max 258 Pulaski 11 Sep. Red-tailed Hawk: max 56 Hastings 8 Nov. Rough-legged Hawk: arr LOL 29 Oct. Golden Eagle: one Toad H 1 Nov. Am. Kestrel: max 26 Pulaski 11 Sep. Merlin: 10 reports, arr Erieville 6 Sep, last downtown Syracuse 26 Nov. Peregrine Falcon: one DH 15, 29, 20 Sep, Delta L 23

Sep, SPd 7 Oct. Ring-necked Pheasant: five reports. Wild Turkey: max 12 Erieville 21 Nov. Com. Moorhen: last DH 16 Oct. Am. Coot: max 182 FH and Beaver L 4 Nov. Black-bellied Plover: max four SPd 20 Oct. Lesser Golden-Plover: max eight SVB 15 Sep, last SPd 29 Sep. Semipalmated Plover: max 16 SPd 10 Sep. Killdeer: max 180 SVB 15 Sep. Greater Yellowlegs: max 90 Delta L 9 Sep. Lesser Yellowlegs: max six T Clay 1 Sep. Solitary Sandpiper: max ten LOL 4 Sep, last Lakeport 17 Sep. Upland Sandpiper: last heard over Syracuse 2 Sep. Ruddy Turnstone: max and last ten SPd 29 Sep. Red Knot: three SPd 4 Sep, only report. Sanderling: max 83 SPd 10 Sep. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 30 SPd 3 Sep. Least Sandpiper: max 18 SPd 4 Sep. White-rumped Sandpiper: last three SPd 13 Nov. Baird's Sandpiper: none. Pectoral Sandpiper: max eight Lakeport 13 Sep. Purple Sandpiper: one FH 13-23 Nov. Dunlin: arr SPd 25 Sep, max 100 DH 28 Oct. Stilt Sandpiper: last Lewis Pt 17 Sep, only report. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: j SPd 3 Sep. Com. Snipe: last 52 SSSP 5 Nov. Am. Woodcock: last NPT 22 Oct. Red-necked Phalarope: one near Bridgeport Oneida L 2 Oct (DWC). Pomarine Jaeger: one DH 28 Oct, last Oswego and DH 25 Nov. Parasitic Jaeger: four reports DH, max five on 15 Sep, last three on 19 Oct. **Franklin's Gull**: ad in pre-Basic molt SPd 6 Oct (MSR), first report in three years. Little Gull: j SPd 29 Sep, second year bird SVB 2-27 Sep, ad L Ontario 24 Nov. Bonaparte's Gull: max 254 SVB 19 Sep. Iceland Gull: arr DH 25 Nov. Glaucous Gull: arr DH 17 Nov. Black-legged Kittiwake: eight reports, arr DH 15 Sep, last two there 25 Nov. **Sabine's Gull**: j DH 15 Sep. Caspian Tern: max 36 SPd 10 Sep. Com. Tern: max 108 SVB 28 Sep. Forster's Tern: one SVB 16-17 Sep.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: max 50 Rand Tract 27 Nov. E. Screech-Owl: three reports. Snowy Owl: six reports, arr SPd 16 Nov. N. Saw-whet Owl: one NPT 9 Oct. Red-bellied Woodpecker: max six SVB 19 Sep, one Barneveld 12 Oct, unusual location. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max two between 6 Sep and 14 Oct. Downy Woodpecker: max five Toad H 18 Nov. N. Flicker: max 17 SPd 20 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: E. Wood-Pewee: max eight Clark Reservation 11 Sep. Least Flycatcher: max two SVB 2 Sep. E. Kingbird: max three Clay 1 Sep. Horned Lark: max 30 SPd 29 Sep. Purple Martin: max 40 SPd 10 Sep. Tree Swallow: max 2400 SPd 10 Sep. N. Rough-winged Swallow: last SPd 10 Sep, only report. Bank Swallow: max 400 SPd 10 Sep, last there 15 Sep. Cliff Swallow: last eight SVB 2 Sep. Barn Swallow: max 350 SPd 10 Sep. Gray Jay: one at Limekiln, Third L Swamp and N. Branch of Moose R Adks. Blue Jay: max 146 Hastings 25 Sep. Com. Raven: two Hinckley L 24 Nov. Boreal Chickadee: one along S. Shore Rd near Old Forge 6 Oct. Tufted Titmouse: one Holland Patent 1, 2 Nov. Brown Creeper: max 13 FH 14 Oct. Carolina Wren: eleven reported, *intro*. Winter Wren: arr Erieville 12 Sep, max 11 FH 14 Oct, last Shackleton Pt 23 Nov. Marsh Wren: last SPd 6 Oct. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr SvB 8 Sep. max 225 FH 14 Oct. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr SVB 19 Sep, max 130 FH 14 Oct. E. Bluebird: max 12 Toad H 12 Oct, 8 Nov. Swainson's Thrush: arr Clark Reservation 11 Sep. Hermit Thrush:

arr Clark Res. 11 Sep, last LOL 7 Nov. N. Mockingbird: five reports. Am. Pipit: arr SPd 4 Sep, last Biddlecum 26 Oct. Bohemian Waxwing: max and arr 39 SPd 14 Sep, last SVB 18 Nov. Cedar Waxwing: max 60 FH 16 Nov. N. Shrike: arr Toad H 1 Nov.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: arr Hastings, Erieville 1 Sep. Philadelphia Vireo: arr SPd 4 Sep, last SSSP 30 Sep. Red-eyed Vireo: max five SPd, Hastings 4,8 Sep, low. Tennessee Warbler: arr SPd 4 Sep. Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Erieville 5 Sep, singles NPT 13-16 Sep, 14 Oct. N. Parula: one Clark Res 11 Sep, only report. Magnolia Warbler: five SSSP 30 Sep. Cape May Warbler: arr Erieville 2 Sep, max five SVB 8 Sep. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 29 SPd 20 Sep. Black-throated Green Warbler: max 15 SVB 22 Sep. Pine Warbler: last Hastings 8 Sep. Palm Warbler: arr Erieville 5 Sep, last Toad H 12 Oct. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Erieville 1 Sep, max 10 Oakwood Cemetery Syracuse 16 Sep. Blackpoll Warbler: arr Erieville and SPd 3 Sep. Connecticut Warbler: a probable female banded at Baltimore Woods ONON 17 Sep. Com. Yellowthroat: max eight Poolsbrook 3 Sep. Wilson's Warbler: arr SPd 3 Sep, max five there.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: last Hastings 8 Sep. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Toad H 27 Oct, max 42 there 8 Nov. Chipping Sparrow: max 25 Clay 21 Sep, last Erieville 25 Oct. Field Sparrow: max six SPd 14 Sep, last Erieville 16 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: five SPd 29 Sep, last Toad H 18 Nov. Fox Sparrow: arr NPT 20 Oct, max 10 there 27 Oct, last Erieville 7 Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: three reports 5-9 Oct. Swamp Sparrow: max 12 Poolsbrook 3 Sep. White-throated Sparrow: arr SVB 19 Sep, max 85 FH 14 Oct. White-crowned Sparrow: arr SPd 25 Sep, max ten Toad H 9 Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: arr SPd 4 Oct, max 158 FH 14 Oct. Lapland Longspur: one Erieville 19 Nov, only report. Snow Bunting: arr SPd 20 Oct, arr Adks 28 Oct, max 64 SPd 16 Nov. Red-winged Blackbird: last at a feeder NPT 30 Nov. E. Meadowlark: max 25 SPd 29 Sep, last Toad H 9 Nov. Rusty Blackbird: arr Lewis Pt Oneida L 6 Sep, max 120 SVB 28 Oct, last FH 4 Nov. Com. Grackle: last NPT 2 Nov. Purple Finch: eight reports, max two. White-winged Crossbill: max 100 Erieville 12 Nov, only report. Pine Siskin: arr NPT 5 Oct, two to six per day at feeders. Am. Goldfinch: max 15 SPd 29 Sep. Evening Grosbeak: arr Clay 2 Sep, max 12 Delta L 28 Nov.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL

The fall weather was unsettled with only a few periods of fine weather. Temperatures for the three-month period averaged about 48°F, which is normal for the period, with the exception of Tug Hill where average readings were one degree below normal. Precipitation was slightly above normal, but showed considerable Regional variation from north to south. The southern half of the Region received about 2 inches more than normal and up to 20 inches on the Tug Hill. September was cooler and drier than normal. The first freeze in most areas occurred on 8 Sep. October temperatures were slightly below normal, and rainfall was normal. The greatest snowfall, on 28-29 Oct, was less than 1 inch. Minimum temperatures in the teens occurred on 27-29 Oct. November was warmer and slightly drier than normal. Maximum snowfall in most areas occurred on 12 Nov, with monthly total snowfall exceeding a few inches only in Lewis Co.

Do several reports of late sightings, including six Regional records for departure dates, suggest a trend in shift of seasonal distributions or just better coverage? Marilyn Badger had 25 Com. Tern at Moses-Saunders Dam on 16 Nov. Marilyn and Mary Wood spotted five late warbler species, detailed in the species accounts. P. O'Shea watched an Osprey harassed by crows at Streeter Lake, Town of Fine, on 4 Nov, and he spotted both an ad and an imm Bald Eagle at Dead Creek Flow on 27 Nov, very late for southern St Lawrence Co.

Moses-Saunders Dam continued to yield good sightings. There was no Barrow's Goldeneye, but Hollis White's **Harlequin Duck** 30 Nov is very unusual. Especially exciting for Bruce DiLabio was 15 Sep, when his list included Little and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Parasitic Jaeger, and Merlin; no less exciting were both **California** and **Sabine's Gulls** on 23 Oct. Numbers of large gulls and ducks were generally depressed.

Dick Brouse, who reported nine shorebirds from Lake Ontario, described a rapid drop in water level which left little algae and few brackish pools, resulting in low numbers of shorebirds. Dick has also added 14 acres of wetland to his property along Kelsey Creek in Watertown, a personal conservation project yielding him great satisfaction and good birding. No rails except Am. Coot were reported. Only one to three individuals of the following species were reported:

Semipalmated Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Pectoral Sandpiper, and Dunlin.

Is Cape Vincent a local Pt Pelee? Mary Wood certainly chalks up the species there: 15 species of vireos and warblers in Sep. Of course, Marilyn Badger had 16 species down the river near Massena, where males of several species were in breeding plumage. Mary also reported a peak day for Ruby-crowned Kinglet on 27 Sep with "hundreds hanging from every bush and tree", as well as dozens of Golden-crowned Kinglet on 27 Sep and 3 Oct. Flocks of both kinglet were reported from Massena about the same time, but in Jefferson Co, LBC recorded "heavy movement" 8-14 Oct. There was a concentration of 5000 Tree Swallow at Moses-Saunders Dam 15 Sep. Peter O'Shea reported flocks of N. Flicker and Am. Robin gorging on good crop of Wild Raisin and Com. Elderberry until mid October. Migratory movements of Am. Crow, Eur. Starling, Com. Grackle, White-crowned Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco were reported during the last half of October.

Range expansions continue with Red-bellied Woodpecker up in Jefferson Co; Carolina Wren and Northern Mockingbird reported from St. Lawrence Co, and N. Cardinal from the Tug Hill. Reports of Common Raven all indicate an increase in numbers and distribution. They were heard vocalizing in the Cranberry Lake region, T Clifton and near Fine, sometimes with Am. Crow, which have diminished in heavily wooded area of southern St Lawrence Co.

Of arriving winter visitors, one Snowy Owl, several Short-eared Owl and Rough-legged Hawk, and three N. Shrike give mixed signals while just one Pine Grosbeak and Evening Grosbeak signals another dismal year for winter finches.

Numbers of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks seemed up, with six reports of the latter; but Peter O'Shea saw the only one N. Goshawk at Dead Creek Flow 1 Sep. Peter also reported Broad-winged Hawk numbers to still be low. Small numbers of spot-breasted thrushes were reported, and there were no grassland sparrows but several Field Sparrow. Single reports of neotropical migrants such as Swainson's Thrush, Scarlet Tanager are alarming. R. Brouse writes, "numbers were down for resident species such as N. Oriole, Indigo Bunting, and Great Crested Flycatcher. It was the first year I did not have Warbling or Red-eyed Vireo".

Total species was 150, a fall record, with 19 ducks and geese, 12 larids, 11 hawks and four owls, and 73 passerines including 16 warblers.

Of the rarities, **California Gull** is a first Regional record and Carolina Wren a county record, while **Sabine's Gull** and Merlin are also significant.

Contributors: Marilyn Badger, Richard Brouse, Sheila & Bob Cerwonka, Lee Chamberlaine, Ken Crowell, Bruce DiLabio, Paul Kelly, Brian Kirby, Debbie & Steve Litwhiler, Peter O'Shea, Jeff Thayer, Hollis White, Mary & Brian Wood.

Abbreviations: CV - Cape Vincent; EDS - El Dorado Shores, T. Henderson; HP - Hawkins Pt, T. Massena; MSD - Moses-Saunders Dam, T. Massena; PtPn - Pt Peninsula, T Brownville; SLR - St. Lawrence River; WH - Wilson Hill WMA.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: singles CV 18 and 19 Nov. Red-necked Grebe: 27 MSD 11 Oct, high. Horned Grebe: three MSD 23 Oct. Double-crested Cormorant: max 250 MSD 24 Sep; last PtPn 21 Oct. Canada Goose: max MSD 1500+ 30 Sep, 2000 Henderson Pd 7 Oct. Brant: just two Millens Bay, CV 18 Nov. Snow Goose: many more than usual for fall; 41 white and three blue morph above MSD 30 Sep; ten Henderson 2 Oct; two, plus one probable blue, Canton 9 Oct. Canada Goose: max 2000 Henderson Pd 27 Oct. Am. Black Duck: max 42 HP 18 Nov. Gadwall: max 500 WH 30 Oct. Canvasback: five flocks of a dozen migrating over CV 7 Oct. Oldsquaw: large rafts off EDS 1 Nov. White-winged Scoter: arr four MSD 7 Sep, max 38 23 Oct. Com. Goldeneye: arr MSD 23 Oct. Bufflehead: none. Com. Merganser: max 5000 MSD 18 Nov; "combined brood" of 25 Streeter L, T Fine 4 Nov. Red-breasted Merganser: three females MSD 11 Oct, only report.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: *intro*. Bald Eagle: *intro*. N. Harrier: good numbers in JEFF, max nine PtPn 18 Nov and Pt Salubrious 29 Nov. N. Goshawk: *intro*. Red-shouldered Hawk: none. Rough-legged Hawk: arr PtPn 21 Oct and Massena 24 Oct, max 55 PtPn 18 Nov. Merlin: single females HP 9 and 15 Sep. Gray Partridge: two coveys of nine and 13 Wilson's Bay, CV 4 Oct. Wild Turkey: no large flocks reported. Am. Coot: 11 WH 30 Oct, unusual. Black-bellied Plover: max six EDS 28 Sep. Killdeer: max 30 EDS 9 Sep. Sanderling: max 14 EDS 16 Sep. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 15 EDS 3 Sep. Am. Woodcock: one Lorraine 2 and 5 Nov, very late. Parasitic Jaeger: imm MSD 15 Sep. Little Gull: arr three MSD 7 Sep, max eight (one imm, three 2nd winter, four ad) 30 Sep. Bonaparte's Gull: max MSD 1200 23 Oct. Ring-billed Gull: max 1200+ MSD 11 Oct. **California Gull**: ad winter plumage MSD 23 Oct (BD). Herring Gull: max 2500+ MSD 21 Nov. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: ad MSD 15 Sep (BD). Great Black-backed Gull: max MSD 350 23 Oct. Black-legged Kittiwake: one first winter MSD 18 Nov; two 21 Nov. **Sabine's Gull**: ad with hood MSD 23 Oct (BD). Com. Tern: *intro*, max 215 MSD 5 Oct.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: singles CV 9 and 24 Sep. E. Screech-Owl: one Henderson 6 Sep; one to two heard CV 4 Sep to 7 Nov. Snowy Owl: one MSD 21 Nov, only one. Short-eared Owl: one Henderson 26 Nov; two CV 29 Nov. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: several reports of migrants 9-17 Sep.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: LBC reports several new locales, one Henderson Harbor 21 Oct, one near E. Hounsfield 2 Nov, one Carrying Place, PtPn 18 Nov, all near wetland. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: three reports, last Henderson 19 Oct. N. Flicker: good numbers from several areas 15 to 23 Sep; last 13 Oct. Pileated Woodpecker: reports from several observers indicate numbers are up.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: E. Wood-Pewee: six Cape Vincent 27 Sep. E. Phoebe: migrants in Henderson 28 Sep. Tree Swallow: *intro*. Cliff Swallow: 17 MSD 15 Sep only report. Am. Crow: 200+ E. Hounsfield 22 Oct; large flock Canton 24 Oct; several hundred Massena 1 Nov. Com. Raven: one Lorraine 6 Sep, two Mt. Arab, T Piercefield, and five Fowlersville, Lewis Co 27 Oct ; *intro*. Brown Creeper: reported by five out of eight regular observers; max four Cape Vincent 27 Sep, one singing. **Carolina Wren**: pair seen frequently in Canton after mid Nov. Winter Wren: last two Massena 1 Oct. Golden-crowned Kinglet: *intro*. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: *intro*. E. Bluebird: reported by five observers; max 4 PtPn 9 Oct; last Lorraine 21 Nov. Veery: none. Swainson's Thrush: only one Louisville 16 Oct. Hermit Thrush: abundant in forest of St Law, last late Oct. Wood Thrush: total of six reported by three observers, last two Watertown 13 Oct. N. Mockingbird: one singing at night Louisville 1 Sep. Am. Pipit: eight CV 23 Sep, only report. N. Shrike: arr imm CV 16 and 18 Nov. European Starling: 200+ Canton 26 Oct.

VIREOS-WARBLES: Solitary Vireo: max two, one singing, CV 23 Sep. Warbling Vireo: only one. Red-eyed Vireo: max 8 CV 13 Sep, few others. Orange-crowned Warbler: one CV 10 Sep, rarely reported. Nashville Warbler: last 9 Nov, Regional record late. Chestnut-sided Warbler: last 18 Oct, Regional record late. Magnolia Warbler: good numbers reported along SLR. Cape May Warbler: last 27 Sep, Regional record late. Bay-breasted Warbler: last 18 Oct, Regional record late. Ovenbird: last 17 Oct, Regional record late. N. Waterthrush: none.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: just one CV 13 Sep. N. Cardinal: one near Sear's Pd, Tug Hill, Lewis 30 Oct. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: just one female Louisville 2 Sep. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Ogdensburg 3 Oct. Fox Sparrow: three Louisville 17 Oct, only report. White-crowned Sparrow: arr Henderson 27 Sep; max 50 CV 3-7 Oct. Snow Bunting: arr 10 Massena 14 Oct. E. Meadowlark: max 20 Woodville 15 Oct. Rusty Blackbird: 50 Watertown 17 Oct. Brown-headed Cowbird: max 100+ Watertown 25 Oct; one Lorraine 18 Nov, late. Pine Grosbeak: just one Louisville 17 Sep. Purple Finch: small numbers from Henderson, CV, Lorraine, Ogdensburg and Massena 1 Oct through 20 Nov. House Finch: far outnumber Purple Finch with flocks of 50-70 reported from lowland; but none from Tug Hill. Pine Siskin: small numbers, max ten, 30 Oct to 12 Nov. Evening Grosbeak: arr Henderson 20 Oct, max 78 Lorraine 19 Nov. House Sparrow: two reports of high numbers, with 25-60 in a flock, JEFF.

Corrigendum: Ad Little Gull reported from MSD on 8 July in Summer report was actually seen 6 Aug.

RD 4 Box 97, Canton, New York 13617

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M. C. PETERSON

Although only 30 observers submitted reports this fall, they enjoyed a number of good finds. They also had some good birding weather both early and late in the season, with a dismal October sandwiched in between. On 1 Sep, a lovely high pressure system sent the thermometer to 71°F at Plattsburgh, before plunging it to 33°F at Newcomb overnight. October, by contrast, was dull and dreary. For ten days, from 8-18 Oct, it was rainy and cloudy, with wind gusts to 80 mph on 18 Oct. That was followed by snow squalls and an earthquake measuring 4.7 on the Richter scale centered 105 miles nw of Montreal on 19 Oct. By 20 Oct, it was 29°F with frost in Plattsburgh, but finally turning sunny and clear for two days before returning to rain on 23 Oct. November was memorable for its warmth: 71°F at Plattsburgh on 2 Nov (21°F above normal), 74°F there on 3 Nov (a new record), and 73°F at Elizabethtown on 4 Nov. By 5 Nov, the high temperature reached a more realistic 41°F, however, and Ray Brook had 12 inches of snow by 8 Nov, with a low of 10°F at Saranac Lake the next day. Temperatures rose once again, however, to 62°F at Plattsburgh on 16 Nov and 68°F there on 28 Nov, when Lake Champlain stood at a high 98.35' and 45°F water temperature. The period closed with an overnight dusting of snow, followed by sunny skies on 30 Nov. The poor weather in October did serve to ground a number of birds, especially waterfowl, and provided several rarities. November's warmth encouraged a variety of species to linger rather late. There are notable occurrences throughout the species accounts, but here, first, are a few of the more dramatic finds.

Jan Trzeciak again carefully monitored Indian Lake in northern Franklin County and was rewarded with a **Red-throated Loon** in basic plumage on 12-24 Oct. She also had a Basic-plumaged **Eared Grebe** there on 23 Oct. Her other notable finds included 34 Double-crested Cormorant 23-24 Oct and all three scoter species during October.

If little Indian Lake had all this, what about L. Champlain? No problem. Geoffrey Carleton found a **Tundra Swan** on Bulwagga Bay on 12 Oct. Bob Hagar located a drake **Barrow's Goldeneye** on Whallon's Bay on 16 Nov, in company with Common Goldeneye, seen by Jeff Carleton later the same day. Meanwhile, up at the Lake Placid landfill, Hagar found a wayward first-year **Iceland Gull** on 24 Nov, while back

on Champlain Bill Krueger watched an adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** from his home on the shore of Cumberland Head on 8 Nov.

Boreal birding was no less pleasant for Gary Lee, who had both Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpeckers, along with Gray Jay, at Uncas, HAMI, on 8 Nov. Feeder watchers had some fun, too. A **Carolina Wren** is rare anywhere in this Region, but one at the George Kaulfuss feeder in Lake Pleasant 2-3 Nov also provided an apparent first record for Hamilton County. Bob Hagar was no less pleased to have a **Brewer's Blackbird** visit his feeding station in Saranac Lake on 24 Oct, for only the second record for Essex County, the Region, and Adirondack Park.

All in all, it was an enjoyable season, with a respectable 155 species reported (and *no* European Starling or House Sparrow!). Oh, yes, before poring over the detailed species accounts for other nuggets, you might want to skip ahead to the end to savor a late summer season record from Greenie Chase, noted Adirondack ecologist. Such is the reward for maintaining a hummingbird garden in the midst of the Great North Woods.

Observers: Merry Baker, Tom Barber, Dirck & Mary Benson, Geoffrey Carleton, Greenleaf T. Ghase, Charlcie Delehanty, William Endicott, Greg Furness, Bob Gillis, Robert Hagar, Candy & John Hess, Anne Hungerford, George Kaulfuss, Hal Klein, R. Koch, William Krueger, Gary Lee, Robert McKinney, E. & W. Mitchell, Mary Lou Morgan, John & Renate Parke, John & Susan Peterson, Langdon Stevenson, Pat Thaxton, Jan Trzeciak.

Abbreviations: Adk - Adirondacks; CH - Coot Hill hawkwatch; IL - Indian L, FRAN; TL - Tupper L.

LOONS-DUGKS: **Red-throated Loon**: *intro*. Com. Loon: max seven IL 12 Oct. Pied-billed Grebe: Malone 26 Oct, only report. Horned Grebe: arr six IL 23 Oct. Red-necked Grebe: NW Bay 7 Nov (GC), only sighting. **Eared Grebe**: *intro*. Double-crested Cormorant: arr L Abanake 1 Sep (RM); Grown Pt 1 Nov, late; *intro*. Great Blue Heron: two flying over Inlet 14 Nov, late. **Tundra Swan**: *intro*. Snow Goose: reported Elizabethtown, Keeseville, Malone, Mt View L, Terry Mt, a strong showing. Brant: singles TL 17 Oct and Ausable Pt 3 Nov. Canada Goose: max 1,500 Mountain View 9 Oct. Redhead: hen Malone Recreation P 26-27 Oct, only report. Black Scoter: arr IL 10 Oct; six Malone 26 Oct. Surf Scoter: max six IL 10 Oct. White-winged Scoter: max 100 IL 10 Oct; last five Malone 26 Oct. **Barrow's Goldeneye**: *intro*. Bufflehead: arr IL 23 Oct. Com. Merganser: max 300 IL 8-10 Nov, unusually high numbers away from L Champlain.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: Owls Head 12 Oct; ad causing panic among the ducks TL 13 Nov. Broad-winged Hawk: max 35 C H 21 Sep (PT). Rough-legged Hawk: arr IL 15 Oct, early; next Crown Pt peninsula 14 Nov. Am. Kestrel: two GH 21 Sep. Merlin: CH 21 Sep; L Alice 23 Sep. Peregrine Falcon: CH

21 Sep, obviously a good day for falcons there. Gray Partridge: one rescued from turkey pen IL Sep. Ring-necked Pheasant: three newly released hens followed observer as she went blackberry picking; one banded bird road-killed nearby the next day (JT); perhaps the DEC could save funds by releasing domestic chickens. Wild Turkey: seven still at Limekiln L HAMI 23 Sep (GL); two hens TL yard 21 Oct; tom & hen TL 24 Oct. Lesser Golden-Plover: eight L Clear 16 Sep (RH), only report. Greater Yellowlegs: one heard IL 31 Oct. **Iceland Gull**: *intro*. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: *intro*.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: E. Screech-Owl: perched in Owls Head yard mid-afternoon 1 Nov (AH), rarely reported here. Long-eared Owl: calling Whallon's Bay Nov. N. Saw-whet Owl: 2-3 tooting Owls Head Sep. Three-toed Woodpecker: *intro*; also Uncas 23 Oct. Black-backed Woodpecker: *intro*.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Horned Lark: one Ft Covington 28 Oct, only report. Gray Jay: *intro*; also Uncas 23 Oct. Boreal Chickadee: Cedar R 9 Oct (GL), only report. Tufted Titmouse: transients Paradox 28 Sep-27 Oct; also Westport and Whallon's Bay in Nov more expected locales. **Carolina Wren**: *intro*. Marsh Wren: last Ausable Marsh 8 Oct (LS). E. Bluebird: dozen or so fighting Yellow-rumped Warblers Owls Head 6 Oct, unusual behavior; Rainbow L 3 Nov, late in Adk interior. Gray-cheeked Thrush: Cedar R early Sep; Chilson 13 Oct (GC), first Oct record for ESSE. Am. Robin: Elizabethtown-Wadhams Rd 16 Nov and Raquette L 22 Nov rather late for Adk. N. Shrike: arr Lake Placid 16 Nov; one Owls Head yard 27 Nov.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Yellow-rumped Warbler: Saranac L 8 Nov (RH), late. Black-throated Green Warbler: pair feeding three FL Owls Head 15 Sep. Pine Warbler: last Chilson 14 Oct (GC). Mourning Warbler: last TL 5 Sep.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Elizabethtown & IL 12 Nov. Field Sparrow: last TL 8 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: last Saranac L 17 Oct. Fox Sparrow: arr Owls Head 12 Oct; last Inlet 11 Nov and Saranac L 13 Nov, late. Dark-eyed Junco: heavy movement Oct. Snow Bunting: arr Indian L, HAMI, 18 Nov and Crown Pt Peninsula 5 Dec. E. Meadowlark: Saranac L 11 Nov, late. Rusty Blackbird: Ausable Marsh, Saranac L, TL 6-12 Oct. **Brewer's Blackbird**: *intro*. Com. Grackle: Elizabethtown 12 Nov (J&SP), late; one with bad leg Owl's Head to 3 Dec. Pine Grosbeak: Seventh L 11 Nov, only report. Purple Finch: last at Inlet feeder 6 Nov. House Finch: Mineville, only report. White-winged Crossbill: Paradox 13 Oct, only report. Pine Siskin: max 20 overhead IL 4 Nov. Evening Grosbeak: max 65 TL 27 Nov; looks like a finchless winter!

ADDENDUM: subad male **Rufous Hummingbird** visiting flowers and perching on clothesline Saranac Lake, FRAN, yard 2 min., 15 Aug (GTC). R. A. Sloss has advised Carleton that he examined the Allen's (*Selasphorus sasin*), and Rufous Hummingbirds (*S. rufus*) in the AMNH, in response to Carleton's request. Sloss reports "None of the specimens of Allen's have completely rufous backs and very few of the Rufous have all rufous on the upper parts. Lacking any definitive evidence of immatures, I examined specimens collected in July, August,

September, etc. All Allen's had more or less green backs, and most Rufous had some green flecking or extensive green. Only a few specimens had all rufous backs, and I was unable to determine whether they were immatures." Both the September 1980 ESSE and August 1990 FRAN hummingbirds had brownish (not greenish or "bronzy") backs, *contra* NYSARC (1981) [*the available slide of the former indicates otherwise, and it is likely that the 1990 bird can only be called Selasphorus species; in hand examination is required to identify this difficult species pair — The Editor*].

Discovery Farm, RD 1, Box 230, Elizabethtown, New York 12932

REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

WILLIAM E. COOK

It was a warm and wet fall in eastern New York. Precipitation in the Albany area was two inches above normal in October and one inch above normal in November. This October was the warmest recorded by the Eastern New York Weather Observers, which began keeping records in 1978. Mean temperatures were in the 40's in November, with some record highs in the mid 70's.

The fall migration was sparse. The regular hawkwatchers found no Merlin or Peregrine Falcon although two of the latter were reported to Dial-A-Bird. Ducks were sporadic, with only one sighting of many common species such as N. Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Gadwall, and Canvasback. No Surf Scoter was reported this season but there were two reports of Black Scoter and one of White-winged Scoter. With a Regional paucity of mudflats and no major hurricane this year, the shorebirding was especially poor. Only nine species, with mostly single sightings, were reported. No one found either of the large plovers or most of the peeps. Only the three resident species of owls were reported. Warblers were described as "very meager" (RY). The 22 species reported did not include Blue-winged, Golden-winged and Prairie Warbler nor Louisiana Waterthrush. The warm weather may, however, have been responsible for sightings of lingering individuals. On 7 Nov a record late Black-and-white Warbler was seen on the Niskayuna Bike Path and a record late Wilson's Warbler was observed feeding on spiders at Lee Thomas' window in Colonie (*fide* RG). Both species are rare after October.

Tom Cobb and Sheryl Zink added four species to the Saratoga Spa

list: N. Shoveler, **Eurasian Wigeon**, Grasshopper Sparrow and Lincoln's Sparrow. Although rarely reported in our Region a second **Eurasian Wigeon** was seen this season in Coeymans 14 Oct (*fide* RG). Hawk watchers found two Golden Eagles in the Region this season). Other rarities for the season include a second Regional record for **N. Wheatear**, **Sandhill Crane**, and **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. We are fortunate that several birders from the northern part of our region have become active and contribute reports from this area which has previously been under represented. Remember Dial-A-Bird for Hudson-Mohawk area bird news is at 518-377-9600.

Contributors: K. Able, Alan Devoe Bird Club, K. Beale, B. Boehm, T. Cobb, P. Connor, W. Cook, C. Fosdick, R. Guthrie, R. Holberton, A. Long, A. Mapes, A. Mason, L. Meade, B. Putnam, A. Ross, R. Yunick, S. Zink.

Abbreviations: FiveR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; HR - Hudson R JenL - Jenny L, SARA; SaraL - Saratoga L; SaraSP - Saratoga Spa SP; TomR - Tomhannock Res, RENS.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: first migrants Jabe Pd WARR 3 Oct (*fide* LM). Pied-billed Grebe: arr Ghent 13 Sep. Horned Grebe: arr SaraL 2 Oct. Double-crested Cormorant: last HR 21 Oct. Am. Bittern: Vischer's Ferry 3-Nov (*fide* RG), rarely reported in fall. Great Egret: 12 reports through 28 Oct. Cattle Egret: Delmar early Sep (AM), rare but becoming almost annual. Green-backed Heron: Livingston 6 Nov (WC), rare after mid October. Snow Goose: arr s RENN 27 Sep; max 10,000 Stuyvesant 29 Oct (RH). Green-winged Teal: arr SaraSP 25 Sep. Blue-winged Teal: one report SaraSP 18 Sep. N. Shoveler: one SaraSP 2 Nov. **Eurasian Wigeon**: one SaraSp 2-11 Nov; *intro*. Black Scoter: a raft of about 40 at Tomhannock Res (Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club), 15 on Saratoga L 20 Oct (BP). White-winged Scoter: one at the Tomhannock 23 Nov (JB). Com. Goldeneye: max 124 TomR 18 Nov. Bufflehead: arr Bolton 12 Oct. Hooded Merganser: arr TomR 20 Oct. Red-breasted Merganser: six SaraL 27 Oct-30 Nov (RG,BP), uncommon Regionally.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: last COLU 30 Oct (ADBC). Osprey: last JenL 27 Oct (RY). Bald Eagle: 11 reports as sightings continue to increase locally especially along the HR. N. Harrier: first of 36 migrants COLU 3 Sep. Red-shouldered Hawk: Greenfield 12 Nov (CF) late. Broad-winged Hawk: last Stockport Station 27 Oct (WC) late. Rough-legged Hawk: arr WASH 28 Oct (*fide* BP). Golden Eagle: imm Pinnacle ALBA 16 Oct (AL, PC); imm Thatcher P ALBA 12 Nov (KA). Peregrine Falcon: Union College and Coeymans both 7 Oct (*fide* RG). Com. Moorhen: Galway 3 Sep (*fide* RG), uncommon locally. Am. Coot: arr two HR Clermont 8 Oct (AL). **Sandhill Crane**: two for a over week Ballston Spa 11 Oct (*fide* RG). Greater Yellowlegs: three reports, arr Chatham 21 Oct (ADBC). Solitary Sandpiper: arr Gansevoort 1 Sep (BP). Pectoral Sandpiper: one FiveR 19 Sep (AM), first local record. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: two SaraL 24-27 Nov (FM).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: one report SaraSP 25 Sep (TC, SZ). Com. Nighthawk: seven reports, max 100 Delmar 2 Sep (AM). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Hillsdale 14 Oct (ADBC), late. Red-headed Woodpecker: two Stillwater 5 Sep (*fide* RG), rare locally. Red-bellied Woodpecker: six reports, now has reached Washington County (*fide* BP). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Claverack 13 Oct (AL). Pileated Woodpecker: becoming more common, 19 reports including downtown Hudson (Union St.) 20 Nov (WC).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Alder Flycatcher: last heard/seen Greenfield 13 Oct (CF), late. Willow Flycatcher: Chatham 23 Sep (K Dunham), late. N. Rough-winged Swallow: last Gansevoort 13 Sep (BP). Com. Raven: seven reports from ALBA and SARA. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 46 banded by RY is "well above non-invasion years". Carolina Wren: six reports. Winter Wren: arr FiveR 4 Oct (AM), early. Marsh Wren: one report, Stockport Station 27 Oct (RH). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: COLU 27 Oct (ADBC), record late. N. Wheatear: one North River 24 Sep (Mr. and Mrs. Robert Marcotte *fide* LM). Am. Pipit: arr Basic Creek Res 5 Oct (KB, BB). N. Shrike: Pittstown, RENS 18 Oct (AR).

VIREOS-WARBLED: Philadelphia Vireo: two reports, arr Gansevoort 9 Sep. Black-throated Blue Warbler: Hillsdale 15 Oct (ADBC), late. Black-and-white Warbler: *intro*. Wilson's Warbler: *intro*.

TANAGERS-OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Scarlet Tanager: imm male Berne 15 Oct (KA), ties record late. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr WASH 28 Oct (BP). Grasshopper Sparrow: one SaraSp 22 Aug, missed the summer report. Fox Sparrow: arr Gansevoort 28 Oct. Lincoln's Sparrow: one SaraSp 19 Sep. White-crowned Sparrow: 12 sightings, six by AL, first Greenfield 7 Oct (CF). Lapland Longspur: ten Hague 8 Nov (LM), only report. Snow Bunting: arr Greenfield 20 Oct (CF). Rusty Blackbird: arr SARA 10 Oct (8P). N. Oriole: Colonie 11 Nov (*fide* KA), late. Red Crossbill: Greenfield 25 Nov (CF). Pine Siskin: first Greenfield 13 Oct. Evening Grosbeak: arr JenL 14 Oct.

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

HELEN C. MANSON

September and October were generally mild. The flowers continued to bloom and katydids called into early November. October brought only light frost and some late fall color, with the leaves clinging to the trees to the end of the month when rains and strong winds stripped them off. With the above average rainfall and the mild weather continuing into November the ponds and creeks were full and open.

The migration, especially of warblers and hawks, seemed poor. Thrushes in general were scarce. The fall warbler passage was low, with a few lingering into early Oct. However, the hawkwatch stations turned up good numbers. The berry and seed crop appears to be good and should see the hardy and half-hardy species through and take care of any northern finches that might venture down our way. Acorns are plentiful in some areas and there is some corn left from the harvest as well as plenty of weed seeds.

With a seemingly disappointing migration there always seems to be one bird that saves the day. And what a bird! A **Wood Sandpiper** was first identified by Tom Burke at Marshlands Conservancy in Rye on 31 October. A true rarity to the lower 48, it was most cooperative and was observed and photographed by thousands of birders over the next five days. Birders from California to Maine, Quebec and Ontario and points in between were able to observe this rare little visitor. It disappeared to parts unknown with the arrival of a cold front and high winds during the night of 5-6 November. Details have been filed with the NYSARC. Two **Sabine's Gull**, an adult and an immature, were seen with a large flock of Common Tern and Laughing Gull in the same area in September.

Contributors: John Askildsen, Orange County Audubon Society, Sullivan County Audubon Society, Frank Brown, Barbara Butler, Paul DeBenedictis, Valerie Freer, Anne Frey, Florence Germond, Sibyll Gilbert, David Hayes, Jim & Mary Key, Stan Lincoln, Helen Manson, Edger Mearns Bird Club, Barbara Michelin, Alan Peterson, Eleanor Pink, Selden Spencer, John P. Tramontano, Edward Treacy, Marion VanWagner, Otis Waterman.

Abbreviations: BSHW - Butler Sanctuary Hawkwatch; HMLHW - Hook Mountain Hawkwatch, MPHWS - Mount Peter Hawkwatch; WCr - Wappingers Creek.

LOONS-DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: several sighted in DUTC., last L Walton 28 Nov, four L Carmel 9 Nov (FB). Double-crested Cormorant: two Tamarack 11

Nov., one L Glenada 20 Oct, most are seen in the Hudson R where 20 Cornwall Bay 8 Sep was an excellent increase over previous years EMBC; two Croton Res 25 Nov (SL). Am. Bittern: one Rye 1 Nov. Great Blue Heron: up to five Humpo Marsh, many throughout DUTC. Great Egret: one L Walton 5 Sep, one Great Swamp, Pawling 4 Oct, one Humpo Marsh, several Cornwall Bay early Sep. Little Blue Heron: one Farm Pd, Pawling 4 Oct (SG). Green-backed Heron: rarely noted for second consecutive year (JPT), one WCr 2 Oct, one Vassar Farm 4 Oct, two Humpo Marsh, last Somers 14 Oct. Black-crowned Night-Heron: two WCr 2 Sep (AP). Mute Sawn: continues to increase. Snow Goose: one to two late Sep. into early Oct, built up to flocks mid Oct through Nov. DUTC, 100+ Butler Sanctuary Hawkwatch 4 Oct, 50 over Somers 14 Oct. Brant: one Cornwall Bay 28 Oct. Wood Duck: few Humpo Marsh, eight to ten Claryville 11-19 Sep, good numbers scattered around DUTC Sep-Oct; seven L Walton 12 Nov. Green-winged Teal: arr Ardsley 7 Sep, max 47 on 6 Nov, two Bashakill 23 Sep, 12 Craft Pd 4 Sep, two 24 Oct L Oniad DUTC, ten Humpo Marsh. Am. Black Duck: normal population L Carmel (FB), normal DUTC. Mallard: well reported most areas. N. Pintail: one L Walton 12 Nov, pair Ardsley 4 Oct. Blue-winged Teal: two Claryville 19 Sep, five Beaver Dam 11 Oct, six Kays Pd 19 Oct, few others DUTC. Gadwall: eight Wappingers L 7 Nov. Am. Wigeon: two Wappingers L 7 Nov, two Kays Pd 1 Nov. Redhead: one Kays Pd, DUTC 1 Nov. Ring-necked Duck: first appeared 13 Oct, flock built from 50 to 150 Abels Pd into early Nov, 12 Hunns L 12 Nov. White-winged Scoter: two Tamarack 11 Oct (AF). Black Scoter: 30 Tamarack late Oct (AF). Bufflehead: one Abels Pd 22 Oct, increased to 15 by 6 Nov (HM). Hooded Merganser: three WCr 15 Nov. Com. Merganser: seven Claryville 12 Sep, eight Rondout Res 13 Oct, three WCr 15 Nov, ten Hudson R, Hyde Park 28 Nov. Ruddy Duck: two Abels Pd 29 Oct-2 Nov, 150 L Carmel 8 Oct decreased to 50 through Nov.

HAWK-ALCIDS: Hawkwatch totals:

Species	MPHW	HMHW	BSHW
Osprey	233	345	566
Bald Eagle	2	10	11
N. Harrier	54	162	157
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2342	3803	4033
Cooper's Hawk	118	156	288
N. Goshawk	54	8	10
Red-shouldered Hawk	36	130	130
Broad-winged Hawk	2755	7907	3846
Red-tailed Hawk	462	77	796
Rough-legged Hawk	4		
Golden Eagle	2	3	2
Am. Kestrel	390	914	897
Merlin	30	111	85
Peregrine Falcon	21	13	29

Black Vulture: four ULST 15 Sep, several se ORAN, three Bear Mountain Sep, three feeding on road kill Iona I 11 Oct (EMBC). **Osprey:** three Abels Pd 25 Nov (JMK), one Cornwall Bay 2 Nov. **Bald Eagle:** imm over Somers 16 Sep; the pair that bred successfully at Rondout Res returned there by 13 Oct (SCAS), ad Bear Mt 16 Sep, one Tomahawk L 30 Sep (OCAS). **N. Harrier:** few DUTC Nov, one Bashakill 23 Sep. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** several DUTC, some already hunting feeders in yards. **Cooper's Hawk:** few DUTC, one Bashakill 23 Sep. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** daily yard area, neighbor feeds scraps to crows and the hawk dines with them (OTW). **Broad-winged Hawk:** peak 868 MPHWS 16 Sep, peak HMHW and BSHW 19-20 Sep. **Red-tailed Hawk:** 710 passed over I-84 overlook near Port Jervis 27 Oct. **Rough-legged Hawk:** three DUTC 11 Nov, one 14 Nov, two DUTC 22 Nov, four MPHWS. **Golden Eagle:** imm over Pocantico 27 Oct (SL). **Am. Kestrel:** seems a little scarce in DUTC, ten reported in Nov, one caught a titmouse in Rhinebeck. **Merlin:** one feeding on sparrows and House Finch in Poughkeepsie. **Peregrine Falcon:** record total at MPHWS, one Cornwall Bay 14 Oct, one imm 11 Oct (EP, OW), two within an hour early Oct (SS). **Ruffed Grouse:** very few noted. **Wild Turkey:** continues to increase in most areas. **Virginia Rail:** one Salt Point 17-18 Oct. **Com. Moorhen:** one Rye 1 Nov, very uncommon (SL), one Tamarack 20 Oct, eight Bashakill 16 Sep. **Am. Coot:** very low numbers continue WEST, three Terrytown 12 Nov, seven Croton Res 25 Nov. six Wappingers L 7 Nov, max seven L Carmel Nov. **Killdeer:** 27 Ardsley 5 Sep, more than normal, 55 Warren Sod Farm 11 Sep (EMBC), 50 in cornfield Verbank 24 Oct. **Greater Yellowlegs:** five L Oniad 23 Oct, two Verbank 24 Oct, three L Carmel 26 Oct, one Piermont Pier 7 Nov. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** three L Oniad 3-13 Oct. **Wood Sandpiper:** *intro*. Solitary Sandpiper: one Dover Plains 21 Sep. **Willet:** two Roosevelt Cove, Hyde Park 24 Oct (DH), fourth DUTC record. **Spotted Sandpiper:** one L Oniad 3-13 Oct (BM). **Upland Sandpiper:** peaked to 19 Warren Sod Farms 5 Sep (OCAS). **Red Knot:** two Rye 4 Nov. **Dunlin:** five Rye 4 Nov (PDB). **Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** five Warren Sod Farms 8 Sep (JPT). **Com. Snipe:** four to five several days Salt Point Oct, one L Oniad 4 Oct, one Verbank 20 Oct, two 1 Nov, four on lawn 20 Sep SCCC, six 26 Sep (VF). **American Woodcock:** two central DUTC 1 Nov, flew over highway DUTC, one Beaver Dam 4 Nov. **Laughing Gull:** one Cornwall Bay 14 Oct, five Rye 1 Nov. **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** wintering individual returned to Rye mid Sep (SL). **Forster's Tern:** 31 on pilings Piermont Pier ROCK 7 Nov (ET).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: **E. Screech-Owl:** few noted DUTC. **Great Horned Owl:** calling several areas DUTC. **Barred Owl:** one Woodstock Rd 27-29 Sep (FG), one calling Verbank 28 Sep (BB). **N. Saw-whet Owl:** one found dead Fishkill 18 Nov, late. **Com. Nighthawk:** one over Mt Peter 29 Sep (EMBC), peak passage 200 over Bashakill 30 Aug (JPT). 25 DUTC 2 Sep. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** one Stony Kill 2 Oct, one Butler Sanctuary 8 Oct, one Pocantico 25 Oct, several others better than normal (SL), one Pleasant Valley 4 Nov. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** scarce WEST, one Warwarsing 4 Oct, one Bashakill 23 Sep, three DUTC mid Oct, one Vassar Campus 21 Nov. **Pileated Woodpecker:** good population most areas.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Vassar Farm 4 Sep (JMK). W. Kingbird: one Rye 3 Nov (SL), one Mt Peter 15 Oct (EMBC). Horned Lark: 12 Red Hook 7 Nov, hard to find till there is snow. Purple Martin: five over Pleasant Valley with swallows 5 Sep. Tree Swallow: 12 Tamarack 3 Oct, one 5 Oct. Red-breasted Nuthatch: good numbers continue through period, suspected breeding DUTC, good breeding season WEST. Brown Creeper: several throughout period DUTC, often missed due to quiet mouse-like way of feeding on tree trunks. Carolina Wren: continues to increase, comes to many feeders. Winter Wren: one Buttercup Sanctuary 20 Oct. Golden-crowned Kinglet: heavy migration through Oct into early Nov. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr WEST 8 Sep, DUTC mid Sep, good numbers through Oct. E. Bluebird: 12 Blue Hill SULL 23 Sep, many throughout period DUTC after a good breeding season with over 600 fledged from the Bluebird Trail, excellent numbers WEST. Veery: lingered DUTC until 20 Oct. Swainson's Thrush: one Stissing 30 Oct. Hermit Thrush: very scarce, one Pawling 21 Oct. Am. Pipit: moderate number farmlands mid Oct. Cedar Waxwings: wide spread feeding on abundant berry and seed crop. Loggerhead Shrike: one Campbell Hill ORAN 31 Aug (JPT).

VERIOS-WARBLED: White-eyed Vireo: one Vassar Farm 4 Sep, one Bash-Rambout Rd DUTC 27 Sep. Philadelphia Vireo: one Mt Peter 8 Oct, one Bashakill 1 Sep, one Rambout Rd 7 Sep, one Pleasant Valley. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr early Oct and stayed through Nov.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: not very plentiful. Dickcissel: one Bedford 20 Oct. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 27 Oct, fair numbers DUTC Nov. Chipping Sparrow: last WEST 31 Oct, one at feeder Moores Mills 6-9 Nov (HM). Vesper Sparrow: always scarce. one on a good sparrow day Croton Pt 21 Oct, one Dover Plains 4 Nov. Fox Sparrow: two at feeder WEST 11 Nov. two Wappingers Falls 19-23 Nov. Lincoln Sparrow: usual one or two various locations WEST, one Stony Kill Gardens 20 Oct, one Pawling 8 Oct, several singles SULL, ORAN 28 Sep-13 Oct. Swamp Sparrow: six Verbank 9 Oct, few Stony Kill Gardens. White-throated Sparrow: good numbers most areas. White-crowned Sparrow: arr 20 Oct, low numbers WEST, three Stony Kill Gardens 10 Oct, fewer than normal, one Dover Plains 4 Nov. Dark-eyed Junco: after mid Oct, most abundant winter bird. Snow Bunting: 25 Rockland L. E. Meadowlark: two Somers 20 Oct, two Stony Kill 15 Oct. Rusty Blackbird: five Croton Pt 21 Oct, two Pleasant Valley 1 Nov, few DUTC Oct. Purple Finch: small migrant flocks, few eating ash seeds and coming to feeders DUTC 20 Oct-5 Nov, always a treat. Pine Siskin: no large flocks noted, few at same feeders. Evening Grosbeak: scattered small flocks, none seem to stay long in one place.

Moores Mills, RD 4, Pleasant Valley, New York 12569

REGION 10 - MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF AND ALVIN WOLLIN

The most notable thing about the fall was the almost complete lack of strong or sustained northwest winds associated with the passage of weather fronts during the September-October migration period. Even above normal October rains, including three inches on 13 Oct, an aftermath of hurricane Lilli which passed offshore, did not bring any significant front to down migrants. As such, the fall was lackluster and many contributors so noted this. There were birds, and interesting ones, but generally not in any great numbers at any one time. On the other hand, the entire fall was mild. October was 4.2° above normal and November was 3.1° above normal. Both the shorebirds and warblers had many species which were seen much later than normal, many into November. Whether it was a lack of proper winds earlier, or the warmer weather later, the migration extended into the end of the season and made up for the slow earlier part.

Of course not all birds follow the rules of flying on northwest winds. The large strong flyers do as they please. On 4 Oct there were strong winds from the south all day. On this day Manny Levine saw a **Brown Booby** from the vantage of a high dune at the Jones Beach West End hawk lookout. The following week, 11 Oct was another day with strong south-southeast winds. On this day at Fire Island and Jones Beach, where hawk flights are associated with northwest winds, the hawkwatch to the east saw a total of 54 hawks, 23 Peregrine Falcon, 28 Merlin and 3 Northern Harrier. On the same day your editors saw 10 Peregrine Falcon and a Cooper's Hawk at the West End during a morning of birding.

Exceptions to the lack of fronts were 17 Sep, when 15,459 Broad-winged Hawk and 5 Bald Eagle were seen at the Pelham Bay Hawkwatch on northwest winds and the Fire Island Watch also had the highest count of the season with 556 on this day. Another day with northwest winds, 2 Oct, was the third highest count for the season from the Fire Island Hawkwatch, when a total of 317 hawks were seen, including a new daily high total of 49 Peregrine Falcon. Fire Island reported a hawk total 72% less than 1989, but this may be the result of contrary wind patterns and displacement of the migration elsewhere. What is notable is that, while small falcons are down from last year (but still in considerably increased numbers over the totals of eight years ago), there has been a steady

change in the ratio of American Kestrel to Merlin from about 10:1 to 1.4:1 on the ocean beaches. This change has come about from a considerably greater increase in Merlin migrants rather than a decrease in Kestrel, although Am. Kestrel numbers have begun to decline significantly from a peak in 1987. Reports from the Region's hawk-watches can be summarized as follows: The Fire Island Hawkwatch counted a total of 3,903 hawks, predominantly falcons and including 249 Peregrine Falcon but no buteos or eagles. In contrast, the Pelham Bay Watch reported a total of 21,951 hawks, of which 18,739 were Broad-winged Hawk, an extraordinary number including the one day high noted above. Other highlights at Pelham Bay were season totals of 15 Bald Eagle, 22 Turkey Vulture and 1,437 Osprey. For those who are interested in raptors in the New York Region, we direct your attention to *NYCAERIES*, an informative monthly newsletter edited by Saul Frank, 166-25 Powells Cove Blvd., Suite 9L, Beechhurst, NY, 11357; price \$10.00. We have summarized some of the data there in these notes and wish to give due credit here.

Last year we posed the question of the simultaneous mass movement of hawks and small land birds and we said that we would look into it. This year the major flight days for small birds on the south shore were 17 Sep and 16 Oct, almost the only two days with NW winds. The two highest daily hawk counts of the season at Fire Island also occurred on these same two days.

A Fulvous Whistling-Duck, first found by Paul Rodewald at Pelham Bay Park on 12 Nov, was found freshly dead on 16 Nov by Bob De Candido and Hugh Martin (see *Notes and Observations* in this issue). This leads to the 'Prime Question' which plagues all birders (much like the question of how many angels can dance on the head of a pin?); "While you can't count a dead bird on your lifelist, can you count a fresh kill if the body is still *warm*?"

The following note from Paul Gillan is quoted in its entirety: "Nov 19 and 28: extraordinary concentrations of Northern Gannet in the Montauk Point area. Many thousands, especially in Block Island Sound. On the 19th there were so many I wondered whether a large percentage of the entire North American Gannet population might not be present."

Shorebird notes from Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge courtesy of Arthur Morris and Dave Mizrahi indicate that there were many fewer juvenile birds this season than in the prior two years, particularly Semipalmated

Sandpiper and Short-billed Dowitcher. Ken Feustel sent some notes on the shorebirds at Cedar Beach, where Semipalmated Sandpiper outnumbered Western Sandpiper by two or three to one until the end of October when Western Sandpiper became more numerous, and where the majority of White-rumped Sandpiper after the third week of October were juveniles. Paul Gillen, Jr. and Aline Dove checked the sod fields in Cutchogue this September and found both Lesser Golden-Plover and Buff-breasted Sandpipers present throughout the month, with a peak of 70 on 12 Sep for the former and of eight on 11 Sep for the latter. In addition they saw 20 Pectoral Sandpiper on the 4 and 5 Sep. Other shorebirds in the fields were Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Upland Sandpiper and Least Sandpiper. One added bonus was the sight of a Turkey Vulture feeding on a gull carcass in one of the fields on 7 Sep.

This fall saw the best Tree Swallow migration in years. Thousands of birds were seen milling about on the Jones Beach strip from 20 Sep through the first week of October. This congregation extended all the way to the Jamaica Bay area, but not to Staten Island. What is listed in the species counts are figures as submitted. Most of the observers were conservative in their estimates by their own admission. With the constant movement of the birds, it is possible that 10 times the number of birds reported were present. Having been an observer, Schiff can attest to the difficulty of counting a moving maelstrom. It was spectacular! By early October the swallows were mostly gone. This is in contrast to the years when a constant stream of stragglers passes all Fall. This change to a huge single outpouring is in sharp contrast to what we have come to expect in recent years. In addition the mild weather usually keeps late comers into early winter. This year the swallow flight was quick, fantastic and over.

A **Mountain Bluebird** seen 20 Oct by Bob Machover and a New York City Audubon field trip led by Starr Saphir has to be one of the best land birds of the Fall. This bird, seen on the fence to the west of the Jones Beach Coast Guard Station, stayed just long enough to be identified before it flew off. There were two reports of **Black-billed Magpie** this Fall, one found dead at JFK Airport (possibly an escape?) on 6 Nov and an imm at Montauk Point 17 Nov through the period (Rex Stanford, mob). A **Harris' Sparrow** was discovered on 30 Oct by Matt Bayer at Jones Beach and stayed another day before departing.

A report was received of a Common Raven being harassed by crows in

Riverside Park 27 Nov. Birders are alerted to look for this bird in our Region in the future.

Contributors: Howard Boltson, Matt Bayer, Jean Bourque, Thomas W. Burke, Ralph Cioffi, James Clinton, Sr., Steve Dempsey, Aline Dove, Henry F. Flamm, John Fritz; Ken Fuestel; Paul H. Gillen, Thomas Hook, Anthony J. Lauro, Emanuel Levine, Robert K. Machover, Peter Martin, David Mizrahi, Arthur Morris, Drew Panko, Herbert H. Roth, John J. Ruscica, Starr Saphir, Seymour Schiff, Lore J. Schore, Steve Walter, Alvin Wollin.

Abbreviations: CB - Cedar Beach; CLP - Clover Lake Park, Staten Island; DPT - Democrat Point, Fire Island; FI - Fire Island; GKP - Great Kills Park, Staten Island; JBWR - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JFKWS - John F. Kennedy Wildlife Sanctuary (Tobay); JBch - Jones Beach; JBWE - Jones Beach West End; LI - Long Island; MeB - Mecox Bay; MPt - Montauk Point; Mutn - Muttontown Preserve; NYRBA - New York Rare Bird Alert; PBP - Pelham Bay Park; RMSP - Robert Moses State Park; ShIn - Shinnecock Inlet; SI - Staten Island; SMSP - Sunken Meadow State Park; ZB - Zachs Bay, Jones Beach.

LOONS-DUCKS: Cory's Shearwater: 12 at sea off MPt 10 Sep, four on 4 Sep. Greater Shearwater: 100 at sea off MPt 10 Sep, two on 14 Sep. Manx Shearwater: one at sea off MPt 10 Sep. Wilson's Storm-Petrel: 100 at sea off MPt 10 Sep, 25 on 4 Sep. **Brown Booby:** *intro*12

(NYSARC). N. Gannet: *intro*. Great Cormorant: arr JBWE 21 Sep (KF). Tundra Swan: one Hook Pd 12 Nov, three 24 Nov (JR), five 25 Nov. Mute Swan: 79 East Pd JBWR 2 Sep (SS), appears to be increasing and may prove to be a pest. Snow Goose: one blue morph JBWR 9 Nov, two imm 5 Nov to end of period (TH); flock white morph JFKWS mid Nov to end of period. Com. Eider: ten MPt, 6 Nov; three male, four female MPt 12 Nov (JR), two RMSP 24 Nov. King Eider: female MPt 12 Nov, male and female 21 Nov. Harlequin Duck: ad male Dune Road 19-20 Sep (Carl Starace, JR), two same area 31 Oct, two FI 3 Nov, one MPt 6 and 17 Nov, one Riis P 23 Nov. Bufflehead: 800+ covered the w half of West Pd, JBWR, at dawn 4 Nov (AM). Com. Merganser: two Hook Pd 12 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: *intro*, last SMSP 29 Nov (HB), very late. **Black Vulture:** one JBch 3 Sep (AW). Turkey Vulture: *intro*, one SI 29 Oct (HF). Bald Eagle: *intro*. Cooper's Hawk: one MPt 21 Nov, also seen in small numbers from the hawk watches and elsewhere on the south shore. N. Goshawk: one JBWE 25 Oct, one JBWR 17-30 Nov. Broad-winged Hawk: *intro*. Rough-legged Hawk: one Fort Tilden 20 Oct, one JFKWS 22 (PM). Golden Eagle: imm JBch 8 Nov (TH), one RMSP 18 Nov, one JBch 19 Nov (Elliott Kutner). Am. Kestrel: *intro*. Merlin: *intro*. Peregrine Falcon: *intro*; one eating a Green-winged Teal JBWR 24 Sep (TH). **Black Rail:** one JBWR 16 Oct (PM). Lesser Golden-Plover: *intro*. Semipalmated Plover: one CB 25 Nov (KF). Am. Avocet: one ZB 8 Nov (Joan Quinlen, JF, TH). Spotted Sandpiper: one JBWE 9 Nov (JF). Upland Sandpiper: 26 Baiting Hollow 1 Sep (JR). Whimbrel: two CB 6 Sep. Hudsonian Godwit: several JBWR 2-26 Sep, two JBWE 27 Sep, one ZB 1-6 Oct, one to two CB 30 Oct-28 Nov. Marbled

Godwit: one JBWR 2-26 Sep, one ShIn 3 Oct. Semipalmated Sandpiper: two CB 20 Nov (KF). W. Sandpiper: *intro*. Least Sandpiper: one CB 20 Nov (KF). White-rumped Sandpiper: five CB 20 Nov (KF). Baird's Sandpiper: one to three CB 3-23 Sep, one Sagaponic Pd 8 Sep, one JBWE 13 Sep. Pectoral Sandpiper: one CB 20 Nov (KF). Curlew Sandpiper: one JBWR to 3 Sep. Stilt Sandpiper: one CB 17 Oct (KF). Buff-breasted Sandpiper: *intro*, others at CB 13-21 Sep. Wilson's Phalarope: one JBWR 2-26 Sep. Red-necked Phalarope: four FI 17 Sep. Red Phalarope: five at sea off MPt 10 Sep. Pomarine Jaeger: one at sea off MPt 10 Sep; several close into the beach at North Bar, MPt (JF). Parasitic Jaeger: three at sea off MPt 10 Sep. Iceland Gull: one GKP 27 Oct HF, one CB 3 Nov (AL). Lesser Black-backed Gull: one Captree SP 8 Sep, one Dosoris Pd, Glen Cove 30 Sep (RC), one MPt 24 Oct. Glaucous Gull: one RMSP 18-24 Nov. Black-legged Kittiwake: imm seen from Wildwood SP 12 Nov (JC, Loretta Clinton, JR). Caspian Tern: two CB 15 Sep, two ad feeding one young DPt 18 Sep (JF), FI two ZB 6 Oct (KF), two East Pd JBWR 15 Oct (AM). Royal Tern: eight FI 1 Nov, one remaining to 16 Nov (KF), four DPt 20 Oct (JF). Forster's Tern: various sites south shore of LI during Sep, one Sore Thumb 28 Nov (KF). Black Tern: two Sagaponic L, one MeB 8 Sep (JR), one MeB 19 Sep (PG). Black Skimmer: 225 at JBWR 7 Sep (TH).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Barn Owl: one JFKWS 17 Sep (PM). Snowy Owl: one ShIn 19 Nov. Long-eared Owl: one Oak Beach (JF), numbers much reduced on the barrier beaches in past few years. Short-eared Owl: one 27 Oct GKP, one JBWE 30 Oct through period. N. Saw-whet Owl: one JFKWS after 12 Nov; one RMSP early to mid Nov. Red-headed Woodpecker: several migrating on the Jones Beach strip, peak seems to have been 4 Oct. Red-bellied Woodpecker: may be increasing as a migrant on the outer beach (FF).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Least Flycatcher: one JBWE 5 Oct (EL). W. Kingbird: one Mattituck 20 Oct (PG), one RMSP 27-28 Oct (JR), one Baiting Hollow 31 Oct (JR), two RMSP Nov 9-11 (KF), stayed almost to end of period. Tree Swallow: 4000+ JBWE 20 Sep, 3000+ JBWE 21 Sep, 15,000 CB 20 Sep (KF), 1000s JBWR 24 and 26 Sep, 10,000+ CB 29 Sep, 4000 CB 30 Sep, 10,000 JBCh/FI 8 Oct. **Black-billed Magpie**: *intro*. Com. Raven: *intro*. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: four JBCh 17 Sep (EL), one RMSP 27 Oct (KF); unusual at the beach in Fall. E. Bluebird: 19 SI 29 Oct and three SI 15 Nov (HF). **Mountain Bluebird**: *intro*. American Pipit: two Mutn 17 Oct (Allan Lindberg), six 27 Oct CB, one 11 Nov JBCh, various others. Loggerhead Shrike: one CB 4 Nov (TB, AL). Veery: one RMSP 8 Nov (EL, AW).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: Old Westbury 3-4 Sep (Lars Hansen). Philadelphia Vireo: one JBWE 1 Oct (EL), others in Sep. Orange-crowned Warbler: one JBWE 27 Sep, rare before Oct (SS,AW), one JBWE 31 Oct. Nashville Warbler: one RMSP Oct 16 (KF). Black-throated Blue Warbler: one JBWE 1 Nov (EL). Yellow-throated Warbler: one JBWE 8-9 Sep. Black-throated Green Warbler: one JBWE 1 Nov (EL). Prairie Warbler: one RMSP 18 Nov (KF). Bay-breasted Warbler: one RMSP Nov 16 (KF). Ovenbird: one JBWE Oct 24 (KF).

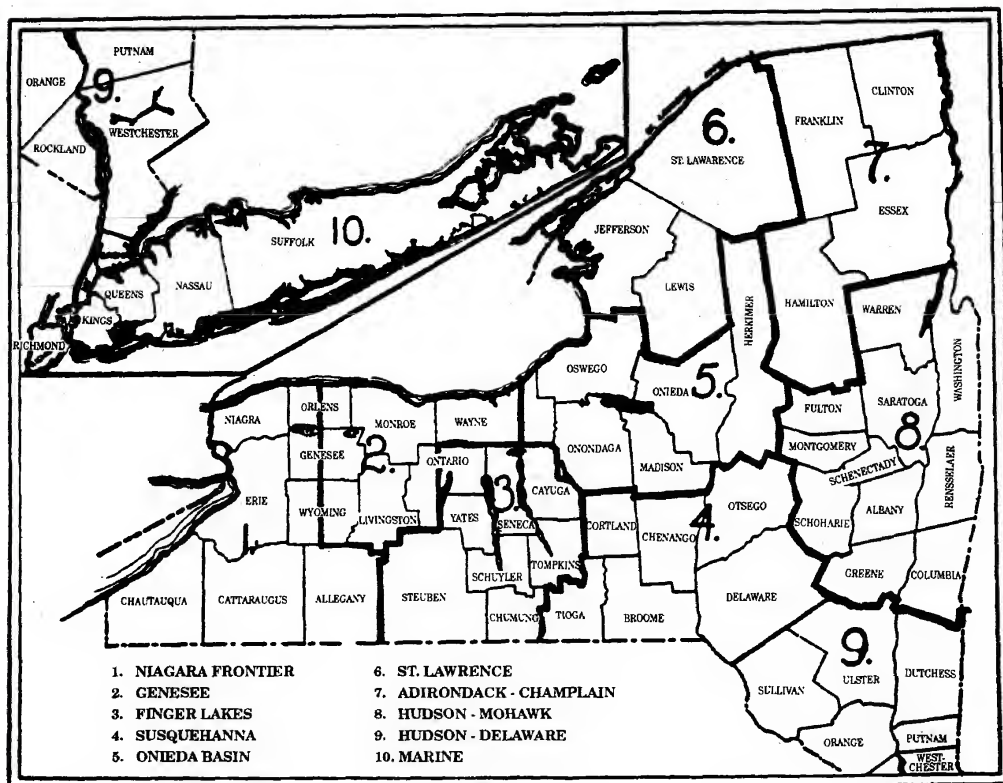
Kentucky Warbler: one at CLP 6 Sep, remained a few days singing from a knot of Japanese Knotweed which is in bloom at this time and full of insects (HF); one JBWE 7 Oct, rare on barrier beach and after mid Sep (SS). Connecticut Warbler: one CLP 5 Sep (HF), several 17 Sep. Mourning Warbler: one 6 Oct CLP (HF). Yellow-breasted Chat: a bird first seen 18 Sep JBWE stayed to the end of the period but not into the Winter period; one Mattituck 20 Oct.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **W. Tanager**: one RMSP 9-12 Nov (KF, AL, mob, ph), one Central Park after 25 Nov. Dickcissel: one RMSP 17 Sep, one Captree SP 24 Oct. Clay-colored Sparrow: one JBWE 3 Nov. Vesper Sparrow: a few in Nov. Lark Sparrow: one JBch 18 Sep (EL), one RMSP 30 Sep (JR), one CB 17-18 Nov. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: one very brightly colored bird (*nelsoni*?) 16 Oct (SS), this inland race is rare on the barrier beach. Lincoln's Sparrow: two RMSP 4 Oct (JF). **Harris' Sparrow**: *intro*. Lapland Longspur: several with Snow Bunting at CB. Snow Bunting: six GKP 27 Oct (HF), flock SMSP 22 Nov and after (HB). Bobolink: various isolated reports of a few flying over, 20 at Floyd Bennet Field 12 Sep (Louis DeMarco). Yellow-headed Blackbird: one near Riverhead 31 Oct (Andy Baldelli). Rusty Blackbird: one Dune Road 29 Oct (Robert Spahn), one Alley Pd P 18 Nov (Dick Hirschmann). Boat-tailed Grackle: one ZB 14 Oct, one JBWE 21 Oct, seen more regularly further east. Com. Grackle: 5000+ of a mixed flock, predominantly of this species with European Starlings at Beaver Lake 6-13 Oct (Barbara Conolly). N. Oriole: one **Bullock's** race JBWE 1 Nov (JF, JR), although difficult to identify in some plumages, this race should be sought in late fall and winter. Purple Finch: migrants on the Jones Beach strip, those on SI arrived 7 Nov. Red Crossbill: small flocks at MPt from 17 Nov on, 25 on 19 Nov (PG), 10 on 25 Nov (HB); 14 RMSP 17 Nov. Pine Siskin: migrants on the JBch strip. Evening Grosbeak: four Mutn 10 Oct (Muriel Stokes), only report.

EXOTICS: Black-hooded Parakeet: six Whitestone 5 Sep (Arty Skopec).

603 Mead Terrace, S. Hempstead, New York 11550

REPORTING REGIONS



For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. XXXVII No. 1, p. 9-10.

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February
Deadline is March 7

Spring Season: March, April, May
Deadline is June 7

Summer Season: June, July, August
Deadline is September 7

Fall Season: September, October, November
Deadline is December 7

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